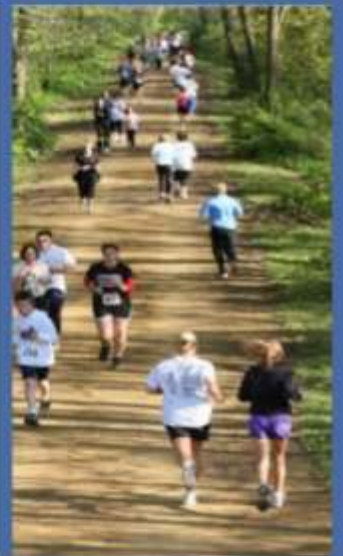


ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN JANUARY 2013



Adopted January 8, 2013

AUTHORITY

The St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan is adopted under the County's Planning and Zoning Authority as part of the County Comprehensive Plan, Wisconsin Statutes 59.52(6)(a), 59.69(1) and 59.69(3). Resolution No. 1 (2013)



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ST. CROIX COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2013-2017

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St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Introduction

Leisure time is an important component of people's lifestyles, whether they live in urban centers or sparsely populated rural regions of the country. Shorter working hours, more disposable income, earlier retirement, and longer life spans have led to an increased demand for leisure-time activities, including outdoor recreation. As more and more people participate in outdoor activities, the increased pressures on existing recreational facilities may endanger the environmental qualities that residents and non-residents are attracted to in the first place. Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreational demand while at the same time improving quality of life, enhancing property values and protecting natural resources for future generations.

This plan serves as a guide to St. Croix County in the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years. Historically, the County has focused on providing outdoor recreation facilities that serve a wide-ranging, broad based population. The **County's appropriate niche is** nature-based, passive, outdoor recreation facilities, emphasizing shoreline fishing, boating, picnicking, walking/hiking, biking, swimming at beaches, camping, snowmobiling and nature **observation/study. The County's** role in recreation is not active or organized recreation facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pools, skateboard parks, motorized sports or organized league sport facilities

i.e. baseball diamonds or soccer fields. Local towns, villages or cities generally provide these types of facilities. The Plan is an update of the 2006 St. Croix County and Community Outdoor Recreation Plan.

This plan also enables the county and its municipalities to participate in various grant programs for local communities including:

- Stewardship Program
 - Urban Green Space
 - Aids for Development of Local Parks
 - Recreational Trails Act, Urban Rivers
 - Streambank Protection
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Lakes Planning
- Lakes Protection
- Recreational Boating
- Sport Fish Restoration
- Conservation Aids
- Targeted Runoff Management

These programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and can be used to assist in the acquisition and construction of new outdoor recreation facilities as well as for upgrading existing recreational facilities to meet Americans with Disability Act or safety standards and in planning for and protection of natural resources, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Throughout this document planning level information on timeframes, cost estimates and funding sources is provided. This

information should be considered preliminary and subject to change. No planning document is ever followed exactly. Timeframes get adjusted, grant cycles and awards affect timing and finances and costs estimates are only estimates that can change dramatically because of marketplace changes, competitive bidding and inflation.

The estimated timeframes, costs and funding opportunities in this document are also subject to St. Croix County's annual budget review and approval process, including capital improvement planning, and will be adjusted as a result.

The St. Croix County Parks System consists of two full-service county parks, one with overnight camping; two county parks with limited facilities; two boat landings, two county forests; one off-road trail; and one limited recreation facility under development. The total acreage of these facilities is approximately 1,000 acres. Please see the map on page 3.

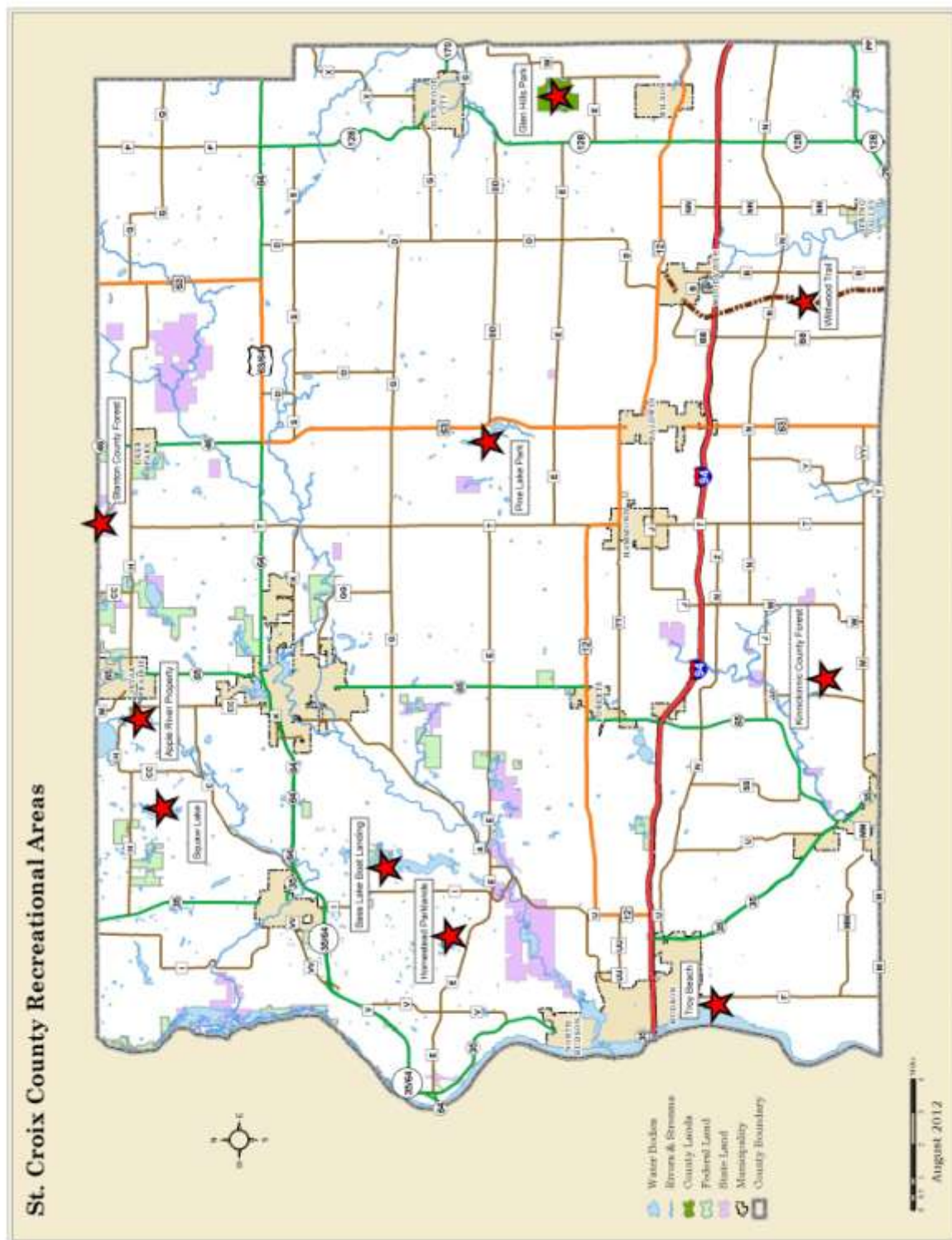
In addition, St. Croix County offers many diverse recreational resources, including the St. Croix River and its watershed. The St. Croix River offers extensive recreational opportunities, from water skiing and pleasure boating to swimming, canoeing, fishing and cross-country skiing. The St. Croix is one of the eight original rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River

System, which was established in 1968 by Congress. The Lower St. Croix River, part of which forms the western border of St. Croix County, was designated a National Scenic Riverway in 1972.

According to the United States Census Bureau, between 2000 and 2010, St. Croix County was one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Wisconsin, with a 2010 population of 84,345, 33.6 percent growth. This population increase has been constant for over 40 years. From 1970 to 1980, the growth was 25.9 percent. From 1980 to 1990, the growth was 16.2 percent. From 1990 to 2000, the growth was 25.7 percent.

St. Croix County's population growth is directly attributable to its proximity to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, of which St. Croix County has been a part since 1980. The metropolitan area provides high-paying jobs, extensive entertainment and shopping options and a wide-variety of educational opportunities all making the county attractive to **commuters.** **St. Croix County's** population growth consists of people who migrated from Minnesota looking for a rural lifestyle and local residents who grew up in the county but rely on or commute to the metropolitan area for their income.

ST. CROIX COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



The development pressure has been greatest on the western half of St. Croix County. This area grew over 37 percent, according to Census figures. Between 1990 and 2006, people seemed willing to commute longer distances and locate further east along the I-94 corridor when looking for home sites. However, the growth has slowed significantly since 2006 when the recession and economic downturn began.

Residential growth is expected to continue throughout St. Croix County over the next 25 years. According to the Wisconsin DOA **2008 projections, St. Croix County's** population is projected to grow 75 percent from 2010 to 2030. Growth of about 64,000 people will bring **the County's population to over 148,000** in 2035. This growth may be somewhat overstated, especially as the economic recovery continues to be slow. The construction of a new bridge over the St. Croix River would be an impetus to population growth and economic recovery.

Growth continues to change the landscape and bring additional park users, particularly families, into St. Croix County. Population expansion creates greater pressure on existing park facilities and increases the demand for additional facilities. Also development pressure on existing lakes and rivers reduces the likelihood that these resources will meet the demands of the public in the future.

Mission Statement

Acquire, develop and maintain an attractive, creative, efficient, responsive and interpretive park system that enriches the physical, mental, social and economic health of all citizens, while protecting, conserving and enhancing natural, historical, cultural and threatened resources.

Additional day-use recreational facilities with hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking, playgrounds, cross-country skiing, etc. will be needed and should be developed. Also on and off road trails systems interconnecting County facilities and other community facilities are needed. Additionally, preservation of open space and expansion of existing park facilities is needed to serve the increased population in the county and region.

There are 7,615 surface acres of fishing lakes and 80.9 miles of trout streams in St. Croix County. These are very limited, finite resources. Water resources cannot be expanded, but they can be protected from impairment, improved or made more available by providing better access for the public. Examples include: purchasing land for protection and for public access, improving existing boat landings, expanding public parking and access sites for walk-in usage, fish stocking and promotion of the resource. Also some existing resources can be made more useful, for example, marginal lakes with extensive winterkill can be used for recreation by installing a mechanical aeration system.

This plan is divided into sections. The first section deals with the overall County recreation program and plan; followed by sections on each individual county park facility.

Goals & Objectives

Goals and objectives provide the framework for meeting the existing and future outdoor recreation needs of St. Croix County residents. Goals represent broad ideals while objectives are more specific targets along the path towards those goals. Strategies for meeting these objectives are presented later in the plan.

The goals and objectives established in this plan will help guide development of **the Parks Department's** strategic plan, annual budgets, capital outlay plans and work plans. In some cases the goals and objectives will be action items that will take place over the course of the next five years. In other instances they will require further development by the Community Development Committee and the County Board and the involvement of towns, villages, cities, special interest groups and agencies. For example, plans will need to be developed for trail systems before some of the trail objectives can be implemented. Also level of service standards should be developed and adopted before acquisition, development, funding, etc. can be implemented to achieve level of service standards.

Level of Service Standards

The concept of level of service standards is still new. Previous plans have identified county-level outdoor recreation needs and have suggested level of service standards be developed.

Level of service standards would quantify answers to those questions. For example, additional shoreline fishing has been identified as a need in this county for several years. Based on an analysis of where shoreline fishing is located, how many residents can utilize it and what the demand level for shoreline fishing is, a level of service standard could be developed and adopted. It could be based on population, i.e. a standard of one shoreline fishing site for every 2,000 residents in the county; or it could be geographical i.e. shoreline fishing accessible to every county resident within five miles. The benefit of level of service standards is aptly summarized as follows:

Level of service standards will assist the County in supplying the specific types of recreation that are needed in various areas of the county and guide the County in acquiring resources that are compatible with that and populating those properties with the proper kinds of facilities to support those activities.

Staff will research and develop level of service standards under the Community Development **Committee's direction**. **Implementation of level of service standards** would begin after review and adoption by the Committee.

(SCORP) 2005-2010

The goals and objectives in this plan also consider priorities, issues and **strategies that have been identified in the Wisconsin's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010** as prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is in the process of being updated and is in draft form. The SCORP identifies recreation priorities across the state, that are important funding considerations for outdoor recreation grants administered by the WDNR.

The ten goals are listed in priority order. The ranking of these goals were provided from input from an organized citizen stakeholder group which provided valuable input into the plan development. The objectives are set out as a logical sequence of events where applicable. Specific action items or strategies for meeting each goal and its associated objective are identified in the Analysis and Action Plan sections for County Facilities.

Riverway MOU – Mitigation for Damages to Blufflands

The new St. Croix River Crossing in the Houlton area has been controversial proposal. To mitigate any negative impacts from the new bridge, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and signed between the National Park Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Federal Highway Administration, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) to provide funding for mitigation activities. These mitigation activities are focused on reducing impacts on blufflands, scenic and recreational values, and protection of greenspace. There are numerous mitigation items, some are specific and some are more broad. Some require MNDOT, WisDOT, WDNR or the National Park Service to be the lead agency responsible with input from local citizens, organizations and government. Others however require St. Croix County or the Town of St. Joseph to be the lead agency with input from state or federal agencies, local citizens and local government.

The item with the largest impact will likely be the \$2 million granted to St. Croix County for purchase, transfer of development rights or easements to mitigate damages to the blufflands along the St. Croix River by protection of replacement lands. This will likely involve the County working with a variety of agencies and organizations to identify sites that could provide recreational value to the area residents, trying to obtain additional state grant funding and then pursuing sites for acquisition through purchase or easement. Once sites are secured, responsibility for development, management, operation and maintenance may be charged to the County Parks.

There will also be a second fund of \$400,000 for greenspace protection or programs within the St. Croix River watershed. The county will again have to work with local agencies and units of government to determine the focus of these funds, which may include some acquisition by title or easement.

Goal A. Develop plans for and encourage the development of comprehensive, county-wide, multijurisdictional trail systems to meet the needs of residents, in cooperation with cities, villages, towns, special interest groups and the County Highway Department.

Objectives:

- 1) Identify replacement lands along the lower St. Croix River blufflands for mitigation of unavoidable impacts to scenic and recreational values of the riverway.
- 2) Continue to work with cities, villages, towns, special interest groups, the County Highway Department, adjacent counties and property owners to expand and implement the County-wide Trail Plans for multijurisdictional trail systems consisting of on and off road trails throughout St. Croix County.
- 3) Identify compatible and incompatible trail uses when planning trail systems at county parks, facilities and natural areas considering topography, safety, noise, trail surfacing, user interaction, maintenance, support facilities and signage.
- 4) Develop standards and specifications for various trail compositions, widths, slopes, uses, and signage requirements connecting to and within County parks, facilities and natural areas.
- 5) Consider and identify environmental impacts to land and natural resources from multiple trail systems development.
- 6) Consider and identify long-term maintenance to land and facilities from multiple trail systems development.
- 7) Acquire lands along the Lower St. Croix River in accordance with the Riverway Memorandum of Understanding, county priorities and input from county residents and agencies. Utilize fee title, donations, grants and conservation easements where feasible.
- 8) Provide for lineal connections and access points into trail systems from local, county, state and federal parks and other public facilities, including schools, paths, and community connection points.
- 9) The County Parks staff should work with the Subdivision Technical Review staff during the subdivision review and approval process to identify and develop trail connections to implement the County-wide Trail System Plans.
- 10) Develop walking and cross-country skiing trail systems within county parks, facilities and natural areas based on demand.
- 11) To the extent economically and physically feasible, create American Disability Act (ADA) compliant accessibility.
- 12) Create a separate account for trail development.

- 13) Encourage the continuation of the state-funded countywide snowmobile trail system, which is developed and maintained by the St. Croix County Snowmobile Association and its affiliated snowmobile clubs with continued fiscal administration provided by St. Croix County.
- 14) Encourage the development of a countywide horse trail system by the Saddle Clubs in St. Croix County.

Goal B. Identify, acquire and retain lands for outdoor recreation and for protection of scenic, threatened, environmentally sensitive, historic and cultural resources, or native natural areas.

Objectives:

- 1) Identify replacement lands along the lower St. Croix River bluffslands for mitigation of unavoidable impacts to scenic and recreational values of the riverway.
- 2) Identify areas of water-based recreation, surface waters and wetlands to provide recreational opportunities and protect and restore water quality and scenic values.
- 3) Identify areas of historic and cultural value, unique plant or animal life, scenic view sheds and environmental sensitivity; native natural areas or areas threatened by development.
- 4) Identify areas for outdoor recreation.
- 5) Identify acquisition priorities based on adopted level of service standards.
- 6) Acquire lands along the Lower St. Croix River in accordance with the Riverway Memorandum of Understanding, county priorities and input from county residents and agencies. Utilize fee title, donations, grants and conservation easements where feasible.
- 7) Develop an acquisition program, utilizing, where practical, a multi-jurisdictional approach to acquiring and developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- 8) Initiate an acquisition program. Utilize fee title, donations and conservation easements where feasible.
- 9) Acquire land adjacent to existing parks for future expansion, as a use buffer or for resource protection.
- 10) Acquire abandoned railroad corridors for trail systems when available.
- 11) The St. Croix County Administration Committee should refer all tax deed deficient properties to the Community Development Committee for acquisition consideration prior to initiating tax deed sale of these sites through foreclosure. The Community Development Committee in conjunction with the Parks Department shall evaluate these lands for recreational use and make a recommendation to the Administration Committee.

Goal C. Develop County land to provide low-impact, nature-based facilities, parks and natural areas to fulfill recreational needs with access to all residents.

Objectives:

- 1) Evaluate current lands and facilities and assess the feasibility and economic possibilities of additional development.
- 2) Design park and recreational facilities with the natural environment and historic and cultural resources in mind by considering project impacts to the environment.
- 3) Utilize County drainageways, greenways, environmental corridors, utility and conservation easements for passive recreation use, including walking, wildlife habitat observation and preservation and trail development. Such environmental areas are not suitable as active parks because of topography and drainage limitations.
- 4) Consider long-term expense of maintenance to land and facilities.
- 5) The Parks Department staff should work with the Subdivision Technical Review Committee during the subdivision review and approval process to identify and plan the protection and management of significant or unique environmental resources through conservation easements or conservation design development.

Goal D. Continue to evaluate and update existing County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas to meet the developing growth patterns and recreational needs of County residents.

Objectives:

- 1) Project future growth patterns and recreational needs.
- 2) Periodically conduct a survey of residents to solicit public input regarding parks and recreation needs.
- 3) Identify the needs of residents at all age levels and physical requirements.
- 4) Identify private and commercial recreation activities to avoid duplication.
- 5) Evaluate county lands and parks to determine **a site's capacity to** support needed activities.
- 6) Continue to update existing County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas to meet changing recreational needs, maximize use of the resource and decrease user conflicts.
- 7) Consider ways to reduce long-term expense of maintenance to land and facilities.
- 8) Consider adopted level of service standards for facilities at County parks, trails and natural areas.

- 9) Utilize this plan following the recommendations and capital improvement program established for outdoor recreation, parks, trails and facilities planning.

Goal E. Improve public awareness of the County parks, trails, facilities and natural areas.

Objectives:

- 1) Establish a promotional budget.
- 2) Continue to update and develop brochures, handouts and other promotional materials for use in improving the **public's awareness of the county's facilities and to promote tourism.**
- 3) Improve directional signage to County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 4) Distribute promotional materials to area businesses, Chambers of Commerce, etc.
- 5) Participate in regional and local promotion efforts such as providing information to statewide tourist information centers and regional tourist publications.
- 6) Distribute promotional materials to area businesses, Chambers of Commerce, etc.
- 7) Plan and hold promotional activities at County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 8) Utilize the county website and social media to publicize and promote the County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas and special events, promotions, etc.
- 9) Develop an interactive map which provides directions, hours, fees, activities and photos of the various park facilities on the county website.
- 10) Update the County Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years and solicit input and participation from residents and local units of governments, neighboring counties and special interest groups.
- 11) Continue to maintain, replace and upgrade equipment for existing parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.

Goal F. Research, develop and adopt outdoor recreation level-of-service standards for parks and outdoor recreation facilities throughout St. Croix County to meet the developing growth patterns and recreational needs of County residents.

Objectives:

- 1) Research and evaluate options for level of service standards including population-based, geographic-based, acreage-based, timeframe-based, and any other logical alternatives.
- 2) Develop and adopt a database of public and private parks, trails, natural areas acreages, facilities, services, etc. where level of service standards could apply.
- 3) Research and adopt population projections, geographic distribution of population, and age/sex distribution of population and correlate to needs for park and outdoor recreation facilities.
- 4) Develop and adopt outdoor recreation level-of-service standards for acquisition of land for new and existing County parks, trails and natural areas.
- 5) Develop and adopt outdoor recreation level-of-service standards for new and existing facilities such as boat landings, shoreline fishing, swimming beaches, picnicking, camping, biking and hiking trails, and snowmobiling at County parks, trails and natural areas.
- 6) Develop and adopt outdoor recreation level-of-service standards for services such as educational programs and school access at County parks, trails and natural areas.

Goal G. Cooperate and coordinate with cities, villages, towns, neighboring counties, special interest groups and neighboring property owners to provide recreational activities, access, education and preservation of natural, historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all citizens.

Objectives:

- 1) Provide assistance with park and recreation planning services to local municipalities.
- 2) Incorporate city, village and town plans into the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan when requested by local communities.
- 3) Provide Planning and Zoning Department staff assistance and resources to local communities and nonprofit organizations to develop applications and apply for recreation grants.
- 4) Utilize, where practical, a multi-jurisdictional approach to acquiring and developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- 5) Encourage other governmental acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and of historical or cultural resources to preserve them from damaging development and to provide public access and enjoyment of unique resources.
- 6) Coordinate park activities/facilities with municipal, private, state and federal agencies and organizations to compliment offerings without duplication.
- 7) Encourage the activities of local user groups as a means to obtain valuable ideas, comments, recommendations and resources.
- 8) Utilize private resources such as individuals, community organizations like the sportsmen organizations, friends groups and land trusts, and nonprofit agencies, to donate time, labor, money, land and other resources to develop and maintain needed quality facilities.
- 9) Consider the concept of a regional Park and Recreation Commission with membership from all local communities to improve coordination and cooperation in providing recreation facilities and services.

Goal H. Develop policies and procedures for public use of county parks, facilities and natural areas.

Objectives:

- 1) Amend Park Ordinance to align with current State Statutes, Administrative Codes and local needs.
- 2) Annually review the parks ordinance and policies and procedures for parks, trails, facilities and natural areas.
- 3) Develop needed policies and procedures for the use and care of County parks, trails, facilities and natural areas.
- 4) Continue to operate the County parks, trails, facilities and natural areas in an efficient and effective manner.
- 5) Provide ongoing safety and maintenance inspections.
- 6) Annually review staffing needs for parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 7) Annually review fee schedules for parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 8) Continue to upgrade and improve the park reservation systems used by the public.
- 9) Evaluate sites for overuse and develop policies to prevent damage to the resources or facilities.

Goal I. Develop and implement County-administered outdoor environmental education and interpretive programs designed to meet the needs of residents.

Objectives:

- 1) Identify educational and interpretive needs of residents through periodic surveys and other mechanisms.
- 2) Identify existing educational programs provided by schools and municipalities, state and federal parks and private and nonprofit organizations in order to avoid duplication.
- 3) Develop, acquire and improve interpretive displays and facilities for educational programs.
- 4) Identify and adapt an environmental curriculum for outdoor educational activities.
- 5) Implement and manage educational activities.
- 6) Evaluate program effectiveness.

Goal J. Complement, coordinate and implement the St. Croix County Development Management Plan, and any other related plans adopted by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors.

Objectives:

- 1) The Parks staff will continue to work with the Land and Water Conservation staff to improve and expand habitat protection and improvement programs for fish and wildlife and provide access to fish and wildlife habitat areas and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 2) The Parks staff will continue to work with the Planning and Zoning staff to develop and implement park plans and improvements to County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 3) The Parks staff will continue to work with the Highway staff to develop and implement bike routes on the County Road system.
- 4) The Parks staff will **continue to work with the Sheriff's Department to** improve enforcement of the Parks Ordinance at County parks, facilities, trails and natural areas.
- 5) The Parks staff will continue to work with Health and Human Services staff to improve health and sanitation at County parks facilities.

Park User Intercept Survey

In 2004, the St. Croix County Parks Department hired the Survey Research Center (SRC) to conduct a survey for their 2006 Outdoor Recreation plan. In 2011, the Parks Department retained the SRC to develop a park-user intercept survey to provide input from park users to guide development of the 2013 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The data in the 2004 survey and the 2011 survey are not directly comparable. The populations of the two surveys are different groups. The 2011 survey data was gathered from park visitors, whereas the 2004 survey sampled the population of all households in St. Croix County and neighboring counties. Differences in the wording of questions and the scale used to rate the quality of parks also preclude direct comparison of the results between the two surveys.

Survey Purpose

The purpose of the 2011 study was to gather information about the opinions and experiences of visitors to the parks within the St. Croix County Parks system.

Survey Methods

Between July 9, 2011 and September 11, 2011, St. Croix County Park employees conducted intercept interviews with randomly selected adult visitors at six parks in the St. Croix County Parks system. The following facilities were included in the study: Glen Hills Park Campground, Glen Hills Park Day Use Area, Homestead Parklands, Troy Beach, Pine Lake Park, and Wildwood Trail. The interviewers completed 501 surveys with adult visitors. Nineteen percent of the surveys were completed in the Glen Hills Campground; 21 percent in the Glen Hills Day Use Area; 19 percent in the Homestead Parklands; 19 percent at Troy Beach; 15 percent at Pine Lake Park and 7 percent at the Wildwood Trail. The completed questionnaires were sent to the SRC for tabulation and analysis. St. Croix County Park officials estimate total attendance during the time of the study to have been 32,000. Based on this attendance estimate, the results provided in this report are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 4.4 percent with 95 percent confidence. This means that if this survey was replicated 20 times, only once would the results be expected to fall more than 4.4 percent above or below the values reported in this document.

Executive Summary

The following are key observations from the survey:

A large majority (88%) of respondents were “very satisfied” with their primary activity on the day they were interviewed.

About 60 percent of respondents came from St. Croix County. Respondents from outside of St. Croix County were likely to be from neighboring counties in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota and their purchases are an economic stimulus to the St. Croix County economy.

Swimming, camping and fishing were the most frequent primary activities cited by respondents.

Over 60 percent of respondents said the main reason they chose this particular St. Croix County Park was its proximity/location.

Respondents are more likely to be visiting the park in a group of at least four persons or as a twosome.

Respondents are very likely to make multiple visits to the park where they were interviewed. Two-thirds of respondents reported visiting that park more than once per year.

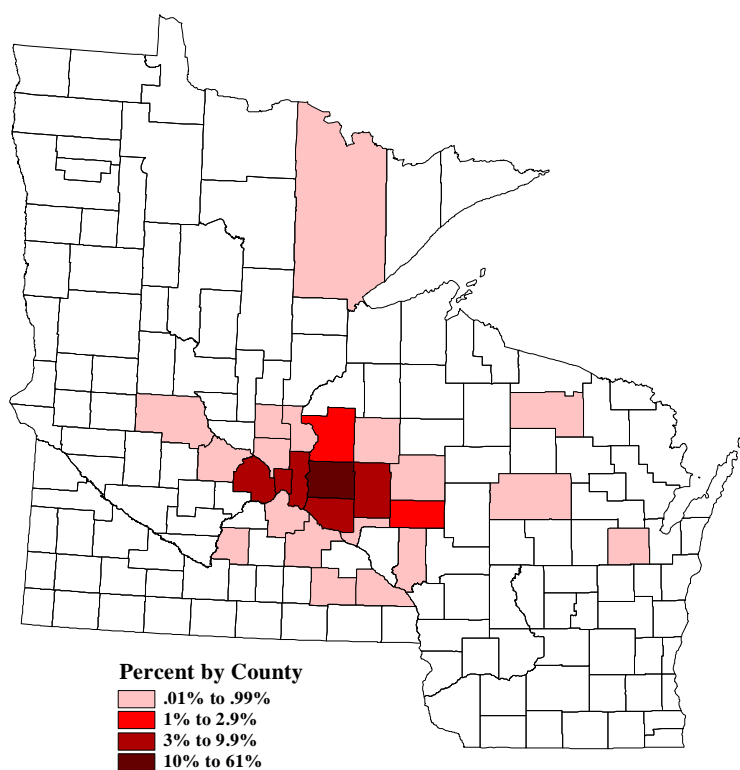
Respondents were most likely to be aware of Glen Hills Campground (42%), Apple River undeveloped property (38%), and Glen Hills Day Use Area (37%). St. Croix Park officials and the Survey Research Center (SRC) believe that some respondents may have confused **the County's undeveloped Apple River property** with the commercial recreational businesses along the Apple River in the Somerset area and that the reported level of awareness is overstated in the survey results.

Although most respondents said they were very satisfied with their primary activity of the day, about a third offered specific suggestions for improvements. Cleaning the beach of bird droppings, more and/or closer parking, and flush toilets were among the most frequent suggestions.

Demographics

Place of Residence of Park Visitors: Park visitors were asked if they reside in St. Croix County and to provide the ZIP code of their place of residence. Map 1 shows the breakdown of responses 61% county residents and 39% non-county residents. Table 1 and Appendix A summarize the home ZIP codes of the survey respondents – visitors came from 105 different ZIP codes. Although respondents came from 10 states, 98 percent of the respondents were from Wisconsin or Minnesota. Among the Wisconsin and Minnesota respondents from outside of St. Croix County, most were from nearby areas in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin (See Map 1 for distribution of respondents

Map 1. Home County of St. Croix Parks Survey Respondents (Wisconsin and Minnesota only)



from WI and MN). Since 61 percent of the respondents indicated they live in St. Croix County, it is not surprising that the most frequent ZIP codes were also from St. Croix County communities. Hudson accounted for 20 percent of the home ZIP codes, while New Richmond had nine percent. Baldwin, Glenwood City and Woodville had seven percent each. River Falls and St. Paul had six percent each.

As stated above, a substantial number of park visitors interviewed were from counties other

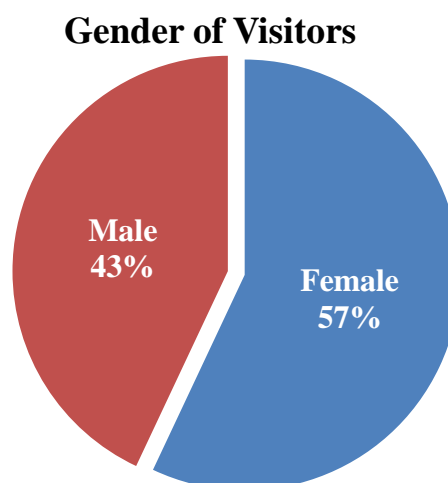
than St. Croix. The expenditures by these non-resident visitors result in a direct injection of outside dollars into the St. Croix County economy. In turn, these dollars multiply as they circulate within the County. Thus by attracting non-resident visitors, the County's parks are stimulating additional economic activity in the County.

Home ZIP Code of Respondents*								
	County	Hudson	New Richmond	Baldwin	Glenwood City	Woodville	River Falls	St. Paul
Sample	473	20%	9%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%
*See Appendix A for additional detail.								

Gender of Park Visitors: 57 percent of those interviewed were women and 43 percent were men. The SRC found some statistically significant differences in the responses of men and women on 14 of the 37 variables in the questionnaire. The size of the differences tended to be small, usually only a few percentage points. The few noteworthy differences will be identified in the text of the report. Visitors over age 55 were more likely to be men, while visitors age 35 to 44 were more likely to be women.

Age of Park Visitors: The age distribution of the respondents is shown in Table 2. The age distribution of the adult population of St. Croix County is shown as a comparison. The sample contained about the same percentage of people age 18 to 34 years old and 45 to 54 years old as in the County adult population. The sample contained more people age 35 to 44 years old and fewer people age 55 and older than the

County's adult population. Overall, the sample aligned well with the age profile of the St. Croix County adult population. There were no statistically significant differences in the age profile of respondents from St. Croix County compared to non-resident respondents.



Age of Respondents							
Age 18+	Count	18 – 24	25 – 34	35 – 44	45 – 54	55 – 64	65+
Sample	498	7%	20%	31%	23%	11%	8%
St. Croix Co. ¹	61,462	9%	19%	21%	22%	16%	14%

Household Income of Respondents: The distribution of annual household income reported by the sample. The table also presents the distribution of household income in St. Croix County. The sample contained a smaller percentage of low income households (less than \$25,000 annual income) and more households with \$50,000 to \$74,999 annual income than in the County as a whole. Overall the distribution of household income of the sample aligned closely with the income profile of St. Croix County households. A comparison of the household incomes of St. Croix County respondents to non-resident respondents found no statistically significant differences.

Annual Household Income of Respondents							
	Count	<\$25,000	\$25,000 – \$49,999	\$50,000 – \$74,999	\$75,000 – \$99,999	\$100,000 – \$199,000	\$200,000+
Sample	436	9%	20%	31%	21%	17%	2%
St. Croix Co. ²	32,213	16%	19%	24%	18%	21%	3%

¹ US Census of Population and Housing, 2010

² US Census, American Community Survey, 2009

Primary Activity: Visitors were asked to indicate their primary activity at the St. Croix County Park facility on the day of their visit. The questionnaire **contained 13 choices, plus an “other” category.** Respondents most frequently identified swimming as their primary activity (27%). Camping was the primary activity for 16 percent of respondents. About one in ten respondents said that fishing from a boat was the primary activity for this visit. An additional 10 percent identified shore fishing as their primary activity. When the two fishing categories are combined, they accounted for 21 percent of the primary activities, which places fishing in second place behind swimming among primary activities.

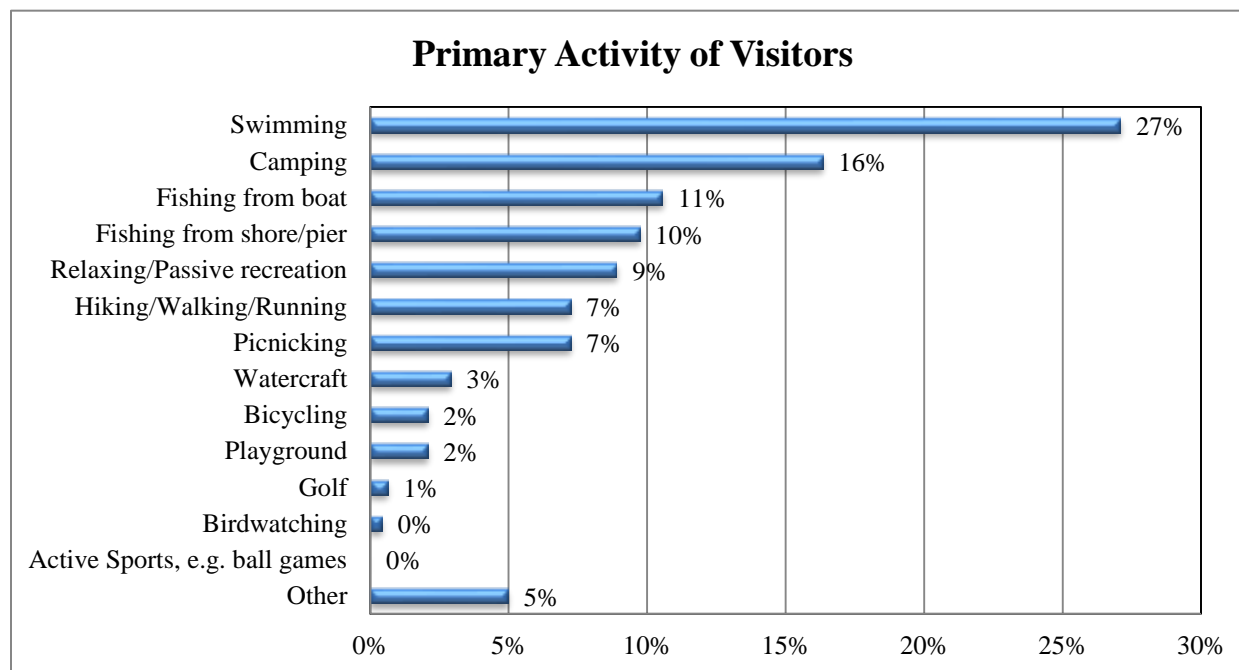
Hiking/walking/running and picnicking were farther down the list of primary activities, each being identified by 7 percent of respondents. Fewer than 5 percent of respondents said their primary activity was watercraft activities, bicycling, playground use, golf, bird watching, or active sports such as volleyball, baseball, etc. **Among the answers in the “other” category,** respondents identified playing with their dogs and scuba diving.

Demographic Comparisons

Respondents from other counties were more likely to be campers than St. Croix County residents.

Men were more likely to have chosen fishing, whether from a boat or from the shore/pier, than were women respondents.

Swimming was the primary activity more frequently among women, respondents less than 45 years old, and respondents with annual household incomes \$50,000 or more.



Satisfaction with Primary Activity

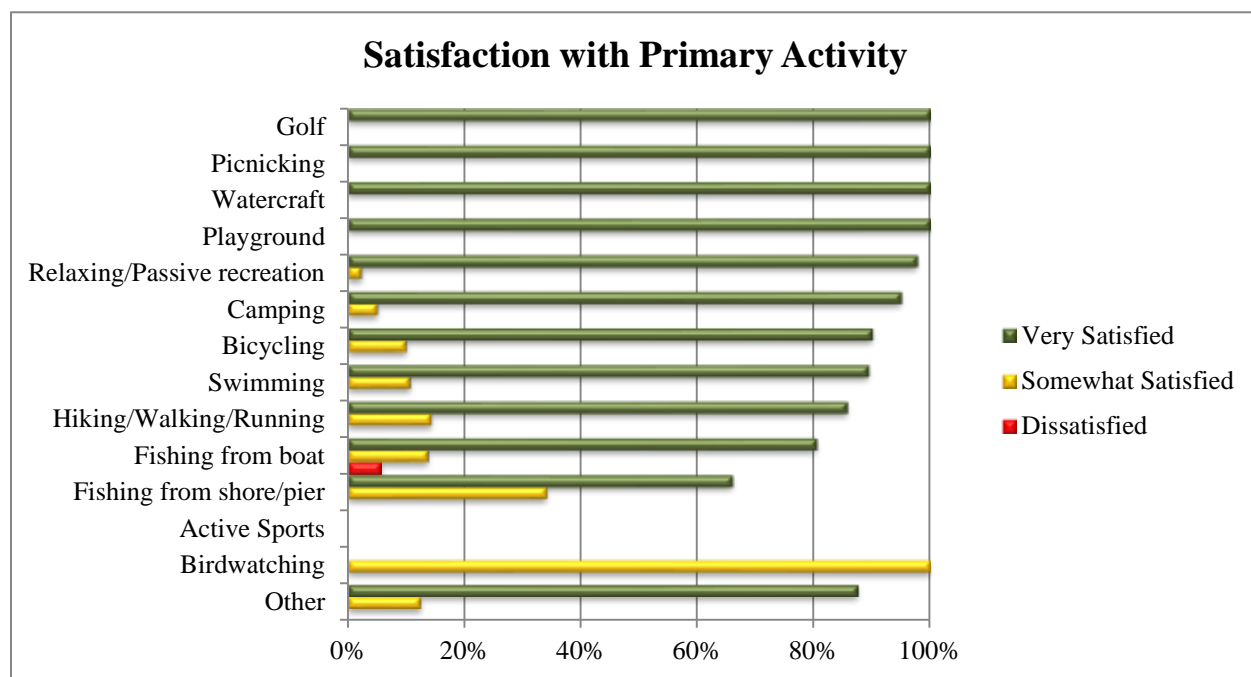
After identifying their primary activity, respondents indicated their level of **satisfaction with that activity.** The choices included “very satisfied,” “somewhat satisfied,” and “dissatisfied.” The results indicate that, in general, visitors to the St. Croix County Parks were very satisfied with their experience. At least nine in ten respondents said they were very satisfied with eight of the thirteen activities listed: golf, picnicking, watercraft activities, playground, relaxing/passive recreation, camping, bicycling, and swimming. A large majority of respondents, about eight in ten, also said they were very satisfied with hiking/walking/running and boat fishing. Among those fishing from shore/pier, two-thirds were very satisfied and a third somewhat satisfied. Among the very few respondents who said bird watching was their primary activity, they were more likely to be “somewhat satisfied.” It is notable that none of the activities listed received any “dissatisfied” responses, except boat fishing; and that was only 6 percent.

Survey questions did not differentiate between first-time visitors and repeat visitors. It is not known if first-time visitors were as highly satisfied as repeat visitors.

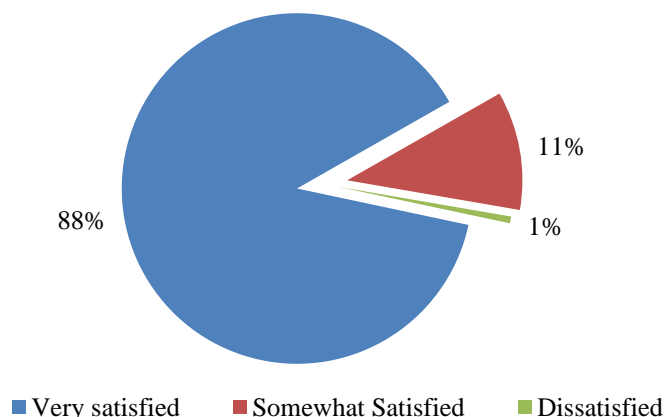
Swimmers at Homestead Park were more satisfied than swimmers at Glen Hills.

Demographic Comparisons

A higher percentage of respondents with annual household incomes \$50,000 or more were very satisfied with their boat fishing experience.



Overall Satisfaction with Primary Activity



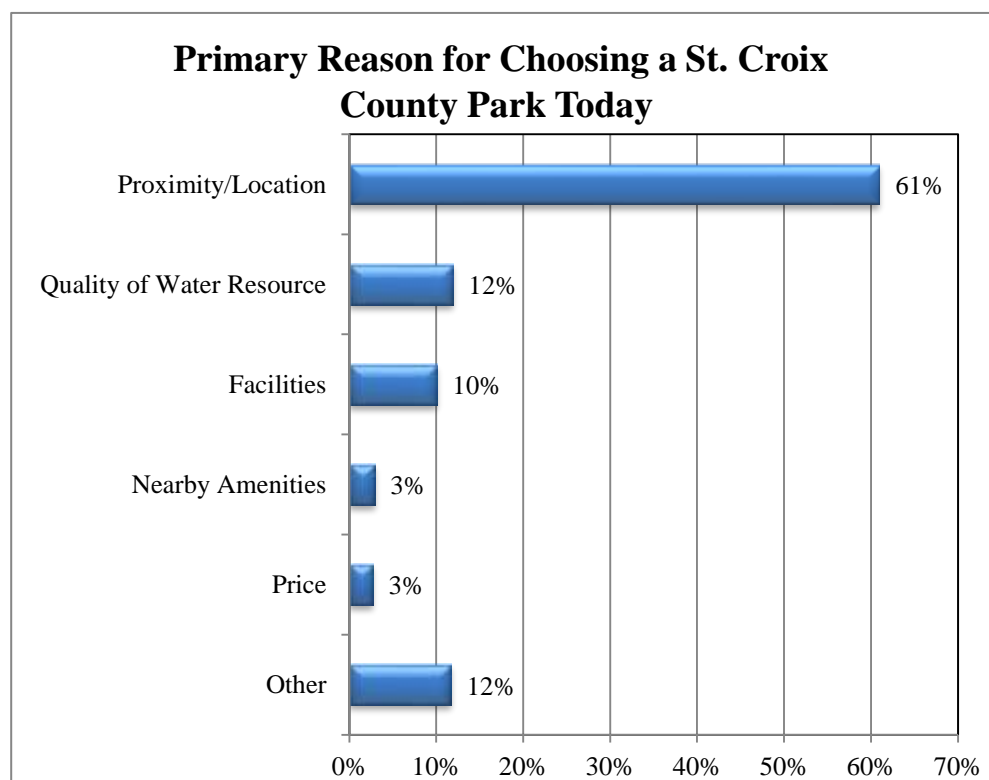
The combined satisfaction ratings for all activities and again shows the high **degree of respondents'** satisfaction with their primary activity. On average, nearly nine in ten respondents said they were very satisfied with their primary activity in the County Park where they were interviewed.

Primary Reason for Choosing the St. Croix County Park

When asked to indicate the single most important reason for choosing to visit the park, the location and proximity of the facility was the dominant reason given by respondents (61%). Quality of the water resource and facilities were ranked a very distant second and third place, with 12 percent and 10 percent respectively.

Among the "other" responses were that the facility was peaceful/quiet/less crowded than other parks and that the park had been recommended by friends or family.

Demographic Comparisons Not surprisingly, more St. Croix County residents cited proximity/location as the primary reason for choosing the park than respondents from other counties.

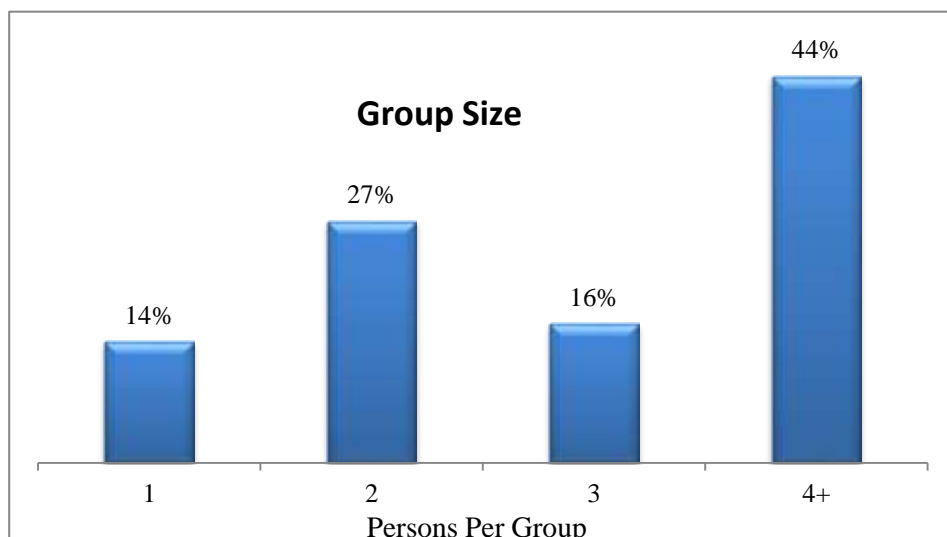


Group Size

When asked how many people were in their group, most respondents were in groups of four or more people.

Group sizes were slightly smaller on weekdays than during weekends.

Demographic comparisons: Respondents under age 45, non-residents of the County, and respondents with household incomes under \$50,000 tended to have slightly smaller average group sizes.



Visits to This St. Croix Park

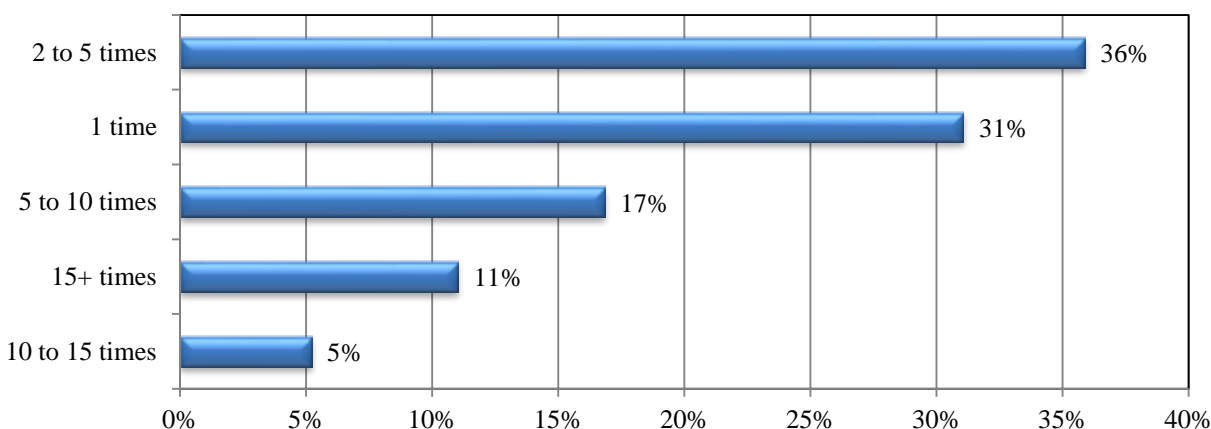
Respondents are likely to make multiple visits per year to the park where they were interviewed. Only a third of respondents said they visit the park once per year. Respondents are most likely to have said they visit the park two to five times per year (36%). About 17 percent of respondents said they visit five to ten times per year, and an additional 16 percent visit at least ten times annually.

Weekday visitors were more likely to have more visits per year than weekend visitors.

Demographic Comparisons

Non-residents of St. Croix County made fewer visits per year than County residents.

Annual Visits to Survey Specific Park

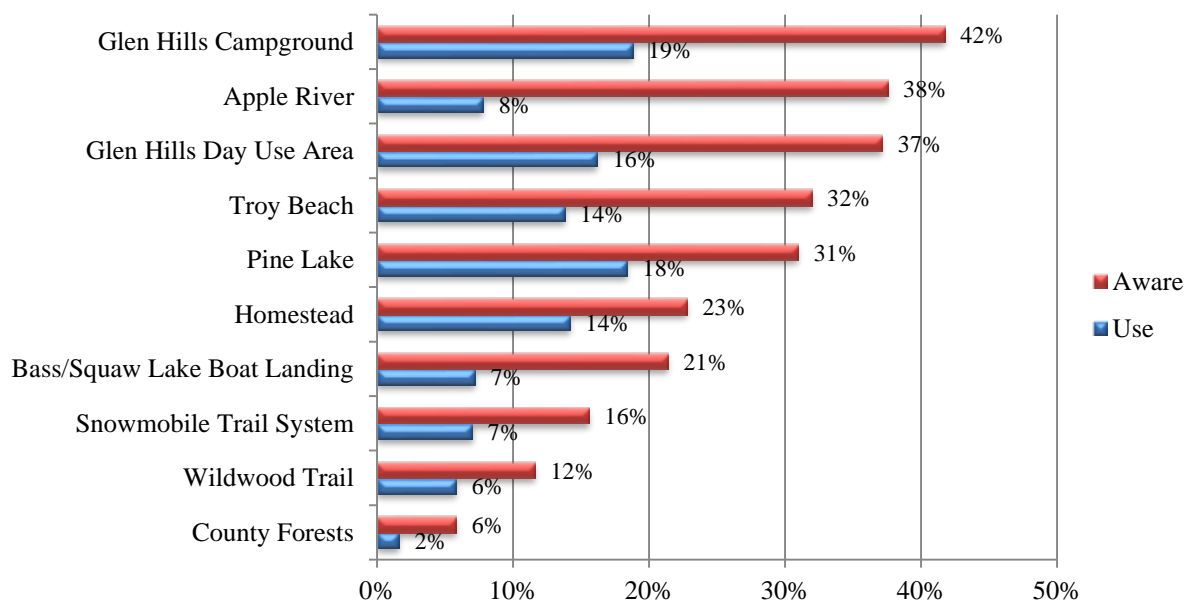


Awareness and Use of St. Croix County Parks

Respondents were presented with a list of St. Croix County Parks and related recreational properties and facilities administered by the County Parks Department and asked which they were aware of and which they have used within the past 12 months. This expanded list of County Parks included the undeveloped County property along the Apple River that has public access, Bass Lake and Squaw Lake boat landings, the County Snowmobile Trail System, and the County Forests. The top bars are the percentage of respondents who said they are aware of the park/facility, and the bottom bars show the percentage of respondents who have used the park within the past year.

The highest level of awareness is for Glen Hills Campground (42%), the Apple River undeveloped property (38%), and the Glen Hills Day Use Area (37%). About a third of respondents were aware of Troy Beach and Pine Lake Park. About one in five respondents were aware of Homestead Parklands and the Bass Lake and Squaw Lake boat landings. The Snowmobile Trail System and the Wildwood Trail were less well known, with 16 percent and 12 percent respectively. Only 6 percent of respondents were aware of the County Forests. **The relatively high level of awareness of the County's Apple River property** reported by the respondents is unexpected given that the property is undeveloped and does not receive substantial use. St. Croix Parks officials and the SRC believe that some respondents may have confused this County-owned property with the commercial recreational businesses along the Apple River in the Somerset area. Thus, it is likely that respondents' actual awareness of the County's Apple River property is lower than the survey data indicate.

Awareness & Use of St. Croix County Parks



When asked which parks/facilities they have used in the past 12 months, Glen Hills Park Campground (19%), Pine Lake Park (18%), Glen Hills Park Day Use Area (16%), Homestead Parklands (14%), and Troy Beach (14%) were the most likely to have been visited by respondents. Although the Apple River property ranked

relatively high in awareness, only 8 percent of respondents said they have visited it. Given that this property is undeveloped, it makes sense that it ranks lower in the percentage of respondents who have used it. Relatively few respondents reported using the Bass Lake and Squaw Lake boat launches, County Snowmobile Trail System, Wildwood Trail, and the County Forests in the past year.

Demographic comparisons

Men were more likely to be aware of Pine Lake Park and to have visited Pine Lake Park and the boat landings at Bass Lake or Squaw Lake.

Women were more likely to have visited Troy Beach.

St. Croix County residents were more likely to be aware of other St. Croix County Parks and to have visited other County Parks than respondents from other counties.

Suggestions for Improvement

Toward the end of the interview, respondents were asked if they had any suggestions for improvements or additional activities at the St. Croix County Parks system. Among the 219 responses were 53 positive statements with no suggestions for improvements. The remaining 166 suggestions were placed into topical categories by the SRC.

The top four suggestions related to the beach (14%), water activities (13%), parking (13%) and bathrooms (12%). The most common theme about the beach was concern about the cleanliness, particularly about bird droppings. The following quotes are representative of this group of responses:

“Goose poop on beach”

“Clean up the beach”

Suggestions about water activities were more diverse and included the following:

“Improve boat landing - larger and two docks would be nice”

Most suggestions about parking were requests for more spaces or for spaces closer to the activity areas.

Respondents making suggestions about bathrooms most frequently requested the addition of flush toilets.

Suggested Improvements and Additional Activities		
Topic	Count	%
Beach	23	14%
Water activities	22	13%
Parking	21	13%
Bathrooms	20	12%
Other specific equipment/facilities	17	10%
Trails	15	9%
Camping	12	7%
Lake water quality	12	7%
Firewood	6	4%
Price	4	2%
Miscellaneous	14	8%
TOTAL	166	100%

Conclusions

A majority of visitors to the St. Croix County Parks system are residents of St. Croix County. However, St. Croix County Parks have broader regional appeal, with 40 percent of the visitor base extending into several neighboring counties in eastern Minnesota (Twin Cities region) and western Wisconsin.

A large majority of respondents are very satisfied with the primary activity that drew them to the park where they were interviewed. Respondents tend to be repeat visitors, with a third reporting they make at least five visits per year.

Although the level of satisfaction with their primary activity is very high among respondents, their suggestions for improvement focused on beach cleanliness, better toilet facilities, and more/closer parking.

Citizen Advisory Committee Input

In addition to the public intercept park survey, the Citizen Advisory Committee was also asked to visit our parks and parks system to evaluate our park facilities according to amenities they “Liked” or “Disliked” and provide comments and suggestions on these facilities. This information was received and discussed during a work session with the Citizen Advisory Committee on August 17, 2011. The comments received from the Citizen Advisory Committee and the intercept survey will provide the Park Staff guidance on amenities our park users enjoy using and identifying amenities that will need improvements. Issues that need to be improved will be incorporated into the action plan for each of our park facilities.

The list of “Likes”, “Concerns” and “Improvements needed” for each park facility was captured from the Citizen Advisory Committee members. Once the list was created each member was given six colored sticky dots and asked to rate their three highest priority. The number in parenthesis behind the item listed indicates the number of votes received for this particular item.

The list below was the information that was received from the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Glen Hills Park – Day Use Area		
Likes	Concerns	Improvement/Needs
Spacious (1)	Frisbee golf – more mowed areas loss of discs	Golf course
Lake (1)	Update beach area	Needs water drainage improvement
Boat launch	Beach – goose droppings – undesirable (2)	Grooming cross-country trails
Mature trees	Group area – amount of use – horse trails to replace group area (2)	Could be used for tent camping for Boy Scouts (1)
Trail system-walking (1)	Signage – directional to park (3)	More shoreline fishing spots and piers (1)
Playground equipment	Cleanliness and lighting of bathrooms (1)	Advertise to attract new users
Accessibility	Open fire pits – hazardous	ATV trails
Fishing platform	Dead Elm trees	Drinking water availability around picnic area
Well maintained (4)	Smoking in playground – St. Croix County policy (1)	Signage for legal size Bass
Picnic areas	Activities supported by map	Barrier free pier needs weeds cut back
Water craft rental		Motorized vehicles to access all use areas of the park
Ample parking/bathrooms		Box Elder trees at intersection of 100 th Ave and Rustic Road 3 need trimming – blocking view of oncoming traffic

Glen Hills Park – Campground

Likes	Concerns	Improvements/Needs
Spacious campsites (1)	Under used – better marketing (1)	Firewood is expensive and why comes from Polk County
Camping/golfing connection (1)	Campsites too close together	Cement floors in showers
Well maintained (4)	More group camping sites	
Each campsite equipped with a picnic table	Campsites unlevel	
Playground near campsite (1)	Open up to other use activities – horses and ATV's	
Staff helpful with information and material (1)	Shower area needs to be cleaner	
Important to have a campground (1)	More access to water in addition to what is existing now (1)	

Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake

Likes	Concerns	Improvements/Needs
Cross-country ski trails & playgrounds	Parking (4)	All day boat rental fee in addition to hourly rates
Scenic beauty/wildlife (2)	Lake access after-hours (1)	Advertising/marketing – Facebook to follow seasonal happenings (1)
Lake and beach quality (2)	Beach access road	Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing options
Variety of resources and well maintained (4)	Second access – playground to beach	Boat launch
Trail system and signage (1)	Drinking fountain – doesn't work	Fishing dock
Playground/shelter (1)	Perch Lake Rd – rough shape (1)	ATV trail in woods
Directional signage/internal signage (1)	Include bike lanes with Township Road	
Staff and courtesy wagons (1)	Learning and Reception Center development (3)	
Friends of Perch Lake group (3)	Parking lower lot – handicap sites (1)	
Fishing access/quality best in the area		

Troy Beach

Likes	Concerns	Improvements/Needs
Large swimming area/beach (5)	Parking (1)	Climbing trail to a high ground observation site
Scenic – including access road	Washed out road	Increase usage – advertising
Friendly staff	Changing areas – 3 inch gap around doors (1)	Extended hours
Well utilized – well balanced	Enforce County smoking policy	Area to launch canoes & kayaks
Directional and overall signage - good	Safety entrance road and County Road F (4)	Volleyball area
Location (1)	Under utilized	Sale of food items on weekends
Buoys	Recycling receptacles	Dog walk area
Coordination with YMCA Camp	Wet area – south end beach (1)	
	Website – update in regards to no dogs on beach (2)	
	Narrow access road	
	Boat access to beach (2)	

Boat Landings (Bass, Pine, Squaw)		
Likes	Concerns	Improvements/Needs
<i>Pine Lake</i> – good fishing	<i>Pine Lake</i> – parking – season opener (2)	<i>Pine Lake</i> – Better signage for entrance
<i>Pine Lake</i> – shoreline fishing access/platforms (2)	<i>Pine Lake</i> – brush growing near platforms	<i>Bass Lake</i> – bathrooms
<i>Pine Lake</i> – well used	<i>Pine Lake</i> – access points under water due to high water conditions	Possible shelter and donation boxes
<i>Pine Lake</i> – well maintained	<i>Pine Lake</i> – gravel washout on steps to platform (1)	Widen entrance for parking
<i>Bass Lake</i> – well maintained	<i>Bass Lake</i> – restripe the lines (1)	Better/more parking areas at <i>Pine Lake</i> and <i>Squaw Lake</i> (1)
	<i>Bass Lake</i> – space along docks	Dog walk area
	<i>Squaw Lake</i> – poor signage	General information about the lakes
	<i>Squaw Lake</i> – weedy (1)	Picnic areas should have water for drinking and washing up

Open Lands		
Likes	Concerns	Improvements/Needs
<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – gem – extension (2)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – marketing/promotion	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – bike crossing signs
<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – snowmobile trail – ½ marathon maintenance (1)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – create loop (4)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – connect with Spring Valley and Eau Galle
<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – scenic	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – create other uses/activities – ATV's mid-May thru September (5)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – information about distance of the trail
<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – other activities/usage (5)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – No area available to unload horse trailers	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – clean drainage way of brush and trees
<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – keep for public use (3)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – compatibility ATV's/pedestrians (8)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – clean up dead trees
<i>Kinni</i> – well maintained/nice trails (4)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – additional parking (3)	<i>Kinni</i> – advertising
<i>Stanton</i> – easy access parking – collaboration (1)	<i>Wildwood Trail</i> – no trail head – difficult to find (4)	<i>Stanton</i> – on the far end of the county, need better promotion
Value open land for public (2)	<i>Kinni</i> – perhaps horse trails	<i>Apple River</i> – poor signage
	<i>Stanton</i> – pines need to be harvested	<i>Apple River</i> – easier/better access to fishing spots
	GPS coordinates for county properties	<i>Apple River</i> – map showing layout of property
		Improve trails
		Partner with local clubs to maintain trails

Action Plans – Improvements/Themes

Staff made an effort to summarize the list of priorities as well as determining **themes from the Advisory member's responses. This information will be used** to address issues in the action plans for each park facility.

- Citizens Advisory Committee/Stakeholders
 - Beach cleanliness
 - Goose droppings
 - Water quality - algae
 - Directional/internal signage
 - Visibility
 - Trimming needed
 - Location
 - Campground
 - Campsites need leveling
 - Shower needs to be cleaner
 - Trails
 - Playground to beach
 - Bathrooms
 - Cleanliness & lighting
 - Parking
 - Restripe the lines
 - Invasive Species
 - ATV - Trails
- Survey Research Center
 - Bathrooms
 - Pit toilets smell - add chemical or pump more often
 - Upgrade restrooms - flush toilets
 - Beach cleanliness
 - Goose/bird droppings
 - Dogs/animal feces
 - Water quality - algae/weeds (GHP?)
 - Trails
 - Connect playground to beach (HP)
 - Keep trails cleared/clean
 - Campground
 - Level campsites - more gravel
 - Swings needed at playground
 - Dump station - needs larger sign
 - Showers
 - Invasive Species

All-Terrain Vehicle – Usage, On and Off-Road Status

For years, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) usage in St. Croix County was for utilitarian purposes such as aiding an agricultural producer or rural landowner on their farm or home operations or other property or to travel between properties. However, all-terrain vehicle and utility-terrain vehicle (UTV) riding, as a recreational activity, has been a growing sport in Wisconsin. Wisconsin State Statute 23.33 and Administrative Code NR 64 regulate ATV and UTV usage including operation, safety, speed, noise, age requirements and registration. ATV registration is required in Wisconsin and/or trail passes can be purchased to legally operate in Wisconsin. ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, who are at least 12 years old for ATV and at least 16 years old for UTV, must complete an ATV/UTV safety certification course in order to operate on public ATV/UTV trails or public road routes in Wisconsin. These and other state regulations are designed to ensure these vehicles are operated safely and responsibly.

Since 2010, there has been interest among ATV organizations in more options **for the usage of ATV's in St. Croix County. Currently, there are no official off-road ATV trail segments in St. Croix County.** The ATV clubs have received approval from several Towns to allow ATV riding on their town roads. The County Trunk Highway system does not allow ATV usage on county roads, except for farm use. ATV riding on road surfaces is not the preferred usage by the ATV organizations. The ATV riders prefer off-road trails.

Areas in the State where ATV riding is very popular are located where large blocks of public land are open for public use. For example, Clark and Jackson counties have thousands of acres of County and State Forests with hundreds of miles of off-road ATV trails. Other areas are located in Northern Wisconsin where large wooded acreages of County, State and Federal lands provide a tourist destination, to name a few, Douglas, Polk, Washburn, Sawyer, Chippewa, and Barron counties. These sites offer ATV riders recreational rides on scenic trails with the ability to cover 100 miles or more in a day.

St. Croix County, one of the fastest growing counties in the state, does not have large acreages of County, State or Federal lands that offer this type of recreational use. The largest blocks of public land in St. Croix County are Willow River State Park, Eau Galle Recreation Area, Glen Hills County Park, state wildlife areas and federal wildlife areas. County staff contacted State and Federal agencies that manage large blocks of land in St. Croix County, and asked if ATV riding is permissible on their managed properties. Below are their written responses:

Eau Galle Recreation

“The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) does not allow recreational ATV riding on property here at Eau Galle. We do not have any designated trails for such, only equestrian and hiking trails. We do not have ATV riding identified as an activity in our Master Plan.”

Kelli Phillips, Park Manager

St. Croix Wetland Management District

"We do not allow any recreational riding of any motorized vehicles on Waterfowl Production Area (WPA's). WPA's are managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the main purpose is for wildlife. Where compatible, certain recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, environmental education, interpretation and wildlife photography are allowed."

Tom Kerr, Manager USF&WS

Willow River State Park

"We don't have any areas that I manage that are open for ATV use. I don't believe there is even any department land in St. Croix or Pierce County that allows ATV's. The main reason that ATV use is not allowed is that it was not included in our properties master plan. It was determined to not be compatible with other allowable uses such as hiking, skiing, camping, etc. The bottom line is that we don't have enough land to accommodate that type of use. ATV's need long linear trail systems because those riders want to put on 20 – 50 miles in a day. Our soils are also too erodible for this type of use."

Aaron L. Mason, Park Superintendent

Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Areas

"No ATV riding are allowed on any DNR State Land in the County. I believe the USF&WS policy is the same. Each Township has reviewed and decided whether to allow ATV use on town roads. This provides recreational access to various wildlife areas, and then people can access our wildlife properties by foot."

Harvey Halvorsen, Wildlife Biologist

The ATV organizations may need to organize in a similar manner to how the snowmobile clubs organized years ago. Snowmobile club members worked with private landowners to gain easements on private land for snowmobile trails. The snowmobile clubs worked for many years to develop the 216-mile snowmobile trail system St. Croix County has today. It should be taken into account that the snowmobile clubs may have had an easier sell with landowners because their recreational usage is seasonal, (December – March). It has minimal **impact the landowners' usage of their property (April- November)** during planting and harvesting of agricultural crops and when producers have livestock on pasture. This is much different for the ATV organizations, because their time periods may extend from April – December or perhaps the entire calendar year.

If the ATV clubs are to be successful in organizing an off-road trail system, or a combination off and on-road trail system in St. Croix County, it will most likely be organized similar to how the snowmobile clubs developed their trail system, by contacting private landowners and developing easements on private property.





There are a few active ATV clubs in St. Croix County: St. Croix County Trail Riders, Glenwood-Forest Barn Stormers, Roberts Knight Riders and the Pierce County ATV Association (PCAA). The PCAA may have members from both St. Croix and Pierce counties.

Prior to making a decision **whether ATV's should be a** permitted use on County property/trails, the St. Croix

County Board of Supervisors should consider the following issues:

- 1) Town Board and community acceptance: It is critical that Town Boards and local citizens desire an ATV trail system in their community and be willing to support a trail.
- 2) Trail operation and maintenance: A public ATV trail system will require staff time to inspect, maintain and operate a safe system. There is state funding that will assist in trail maintenance, but the amount may not cover the cost of maintenance. The county would need to budget for additional costs.
- 3) Financial Partnership: A financial partnership between local towns, the county, and ATV clubs may be necessary to fund an off-road trail system.
- 4) Legal and Liability: It will be necessary to have our Corporation Counsel and Risk Management support ATV activity on County Property.
- 5) Current adopted County Plans: County plans that have not allowed ATV usage on county property may need to be amended.
- 6) ATV Ordinance: To effectively regulate and enforce ATV activity, the County would need to develop and adopt an ATV ordinance. The ordinance would establish standards to regulate noise levels, speed, hours of usage, shared usage, seasonal periods of usage, signage, sight distances, vision triangles, highway crossings, citations and a variety of other safety and administrative issues.
- 7) Enforcement: If a County ordinance is developed, it will need to be enforced, which will require staff with law enforcement credentials, purchase of an ATV and trailer and allocation of staff time to administer the ordinance.

General Facility Analysis and Action Plan

COUNTY PARKS ADMINISTRATION

The Community Development Committee is responsible for policy direction for the St. Croix County Parks system.

The County Parks administration staff oversees, develops, plans and **directs the County park system's** management, operations, fiscal administration and long-range planning.

The administrative headquarters is located in the Agricultural Service and Education Center in Baldwin to be centrally located within the park system and to improve coordination between the eastern and western field offices. Parks administration staff provides the following administrative functions: coordination of promotional activities, staff management, purchasing, procurement, long-range plans, grant writing, requests for proposals, fiscal administration and budget development. The eastern field staff are located at Glen Hills and are responsible for operation and maintenance of Glen Hills Park, Pine

Lake Park, Kinnickinnic Forest, and the Wildwood Trail. The western field staff are located at Homestead Parklands and are responsible for operation and maintenance of the Apple River Property, Bass and Squaw Lake Boat Landings, Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake, Stanton Forest and Troy Beach.

The Community Development Committee will revisit the park ordinance and policies, the operational policies and procedures, the staffing needs, and the policies and procedures for use and care of the park system on a regular basis to better serve the needs of the public. The Committee will continue to expand the Information and **Education Specialist's workload into** the park system. This staff person will continue to provide interpretive information and conduct outdoor environmental education programs and activities that increase the **public's awareness and involvement** in natural resources.

Administration Action Plan			
Improvement	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Develop an overall County Park System promotion program of brochures, advertising and memberships.	\$5,000	Park Budget	Annually
Develop an environmental curriculum for outdoor educational activities.	\$500	Park/LWCD Budgets	Annually
Amend and periodically review the parks ordinance and policies and procedures for parks, trails, facilities and natural areas.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Review operational policies, procedures, fee schedules.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Review staffing needs.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Develop policies and procedures for the use and care of County parks, trails, facilities and natural areas.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Develop, acquire and improve interpretive displays and facilities for outdoor environmental education and interpretive programs.	\$2,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Work with County organizations to distribute promotional materials, such as chambers, rotaries etc.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Plan and hold promotional activities for County facilities.	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Utilize the County website and social media to publicize and promote Parks Department events and activities.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Improve promotion of Glen Hills Campground as regional facility.	\$1,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Provide local assistance in recreation planning.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Coordinate park activities/facilities with other municipalities, agencies and organizations to compliment without duplicating effort.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Manage, control, remove invasive species - park property	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Use WDNR and other applicable standards and specifications for various trail compositions, widths, slopes, uses and signage requirements connecting to and within County parks facilities and natural areas.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Fund County trail development.	Unknown	Unknown	2013-2015
Develop level of service standards for County outdoor recreation activities such as boat landings, shoreline fishing, swimming beaches, picnic areas, trail systems, natural areas access, snowmobile trails, etc.	\$10,000	Park Budget	2014-2017
Develop and implement an online reservation system	\$20,000	Park Budget	2014
Develop and implement County-wide Trail Plans for multijurisdictional trail systems in conjunction with cities, villages, towns, special interest groups and county depts.	\$10,000	Park Budget	2014-2017
Purchase cross-country ski trail grooming equipment to increase usage of trails at all facilities. Monitor need and usage.	\$22,000	Park Budget	2016-2017
Adopt level of service standards for County outdoor recreation activities such as boat landings, shoreline fishing, swimming beaches, picnic areas, trail systems, natural areas access, snowmobile trails, etc.	\$0	N/A	2017
Update the Outdoor Recreation Plan	\$7,000	Park Budget	2017

COUNTY PARKS EXPANSION & ACQUISITION

The County Parks staff has identified a list of potential types of expansion or acquisition opportunities for the County park system. After level of service standards are created and adopted the acquisition and expansion opportunities would be expanded, refined and prioritized by Parks staff and the Community Development Committee. The level of service standards, once developed will provide a much clearer picture of what kind and the location of properties and how many additional park facilities are needed. This section of the plan would then be amended by the County Board to include any specific opportunities identified by the level of service standards as a high priority for expansion and acquisition. The following list includes general areas of interest for various types of new facilities.

- Identify replacement lands along the lower St. Croix River bluffslands for mitigation of unavoidable impacts to scenic and recreational values of the riverway.
- Acquire lands along the Lower St. Croix River in accordance with the Riverway Memorandum of Understanding, county priorities and input from county residents and agencies. Utilize fee title, donations, grants and conservation easements where feasible.
- Consider retaining any currently owned County land for future natural-area open space and future park facilities.
- Consider retaining tax deed deficient properties upon recommendation of the Community Development and Administration Committees to provide additional park facilities, expand existing facilities, buffer existing facilities, protect water quality and improve habitat.
- Consider acquiring land adjacent to existing County recreation facilities to create additional shoreline fishing and wildlife habitat; improve water quality management; protect aesthetic views; and provide trail connections.
- Consider acquiring wetlands adjacent to existing parks to protect water quality, improve habitat protection, expand recreational opportunities and provide buffers.
- Consider acquiring land to replace existing boat landings, provide additional boat landings or expand existing boat landings to add shoreline fishing and create additional parking, picnic facilities, etc. on lakes throughout the County, possibly through coordination and partnership with the DNR.
- Consider acquiring additional land to expand the County forests.
- Consider acquiring land to create linear connections to existing properties, create a buffer and protect the resource through coordination and cooperation with organizations.
- Consider acquiring land for additional facilities based on population growth and level of service standards, once adopted.

- Consider acquiring or expanding public access and parking along rivers and tributaries, possibly through coordination and partnership with nonprofit organizations.
- Consider acquiring land to protect and preserve cultural, historical and unique water resources.
- If any railroad grades become available, due to a train line being abandoned, these should be obtained for trail uses.
- Considering acquiring through donations or purchasing easements on abandoned railroad grades that could provide connectivity to municipalities, recreational facilities or other locations of special interests.

EASTERN FACILITIES ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLANS

GLEN HILLS PARK

History

The Glen Hills Park is a 700-acre full-service park located in the Town of Springfield on Rustic Road 3, four miles south of Glenwood City. Glen Hills is a heavily used facility, which is popular with residents and non-residents alike and is the largest facility in the County Parks System.

The park and Glen Lake, a 78-acre lake, were created by the Soil Conservation Service as part of the Public Law (PL) 566 Floodwater Control Program to provide flood protection and prevent soil erosion in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The primary use of the site is to contain floodwater and the secondary use is recreation. The County has a perpetual lease from the State of Wisconsin to operate the site as a recreational facility, open to the public. The park opened in 1974.

The County subleases 72 acres of the site, under a 99-year lease, to the Glen Hills Golf Association, which operates a 9-hole golf course. The association has considered the feasibility of adding an additional nine holes to the golf course.

Facilities

Facilities include: a 61-site campground, two picnic areas, three playgrounds, group area, swimming beach, boat landing with rentals, sports area, scenic overlook, hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, snowmobile trails, and a 9-hole golf course. The camping season runs from May 1 through October 31 each year. Limited hunting is allowed within the park. See Glen Hills Park Site Plan map on page 50.

Staffing

There are two full-time and eight seasonal staff at the park. Both the day use and campground areas of the park are open and staffed daily from May 1st to October 31st. There is no lifeguard. During the off-season, November 1- April 30, the day use area is open daily but is not staffed on weekends. The eight seasonal staff members are generally hired from May to October. They are a mixture of college or technical school students and retirees who are trained in the operation **of the park's facilities, equipment and public contact.**

Recent Improvements

Since 2006, several renovations and improvements have been done at Glen Hills County Park. Handicap fishing pier with accessible walkway, park benches, picnic tables, grills, campground electrical system was brought up to code and 93 fish cribs have been installed in the lake for fish habitat.

A 2008-2010 DNR park improvement grant of \$95,000 was used to make improvements throughout the park system and many of those improvements were done at Glen Hills.

Needs Assessment

General Facilities: The Glen Hills facility is a beautiful county park. While many improvements have been made, there are still some facilities that are over 35 years old and need upgrading or replacement. The staff will begin an annual replacement program for the remaining picnic tables, grills, etc. Timber thinning of the pine plantations occurred in the winter of 2005-2006. Ongoing timber management will continue.

Glen Lake is showing signs of age. The sediment levels have been steadily increasing causing higher and higher nutrient levels in the lake. The amount of algae is increasing and related activities such as swimming have decreased during periods of peak algae bloom in mid to late summer. Increased goose population on the lake has had a negative impact on the water quality and swimming conditions. Options to remedy this situation will be explored.

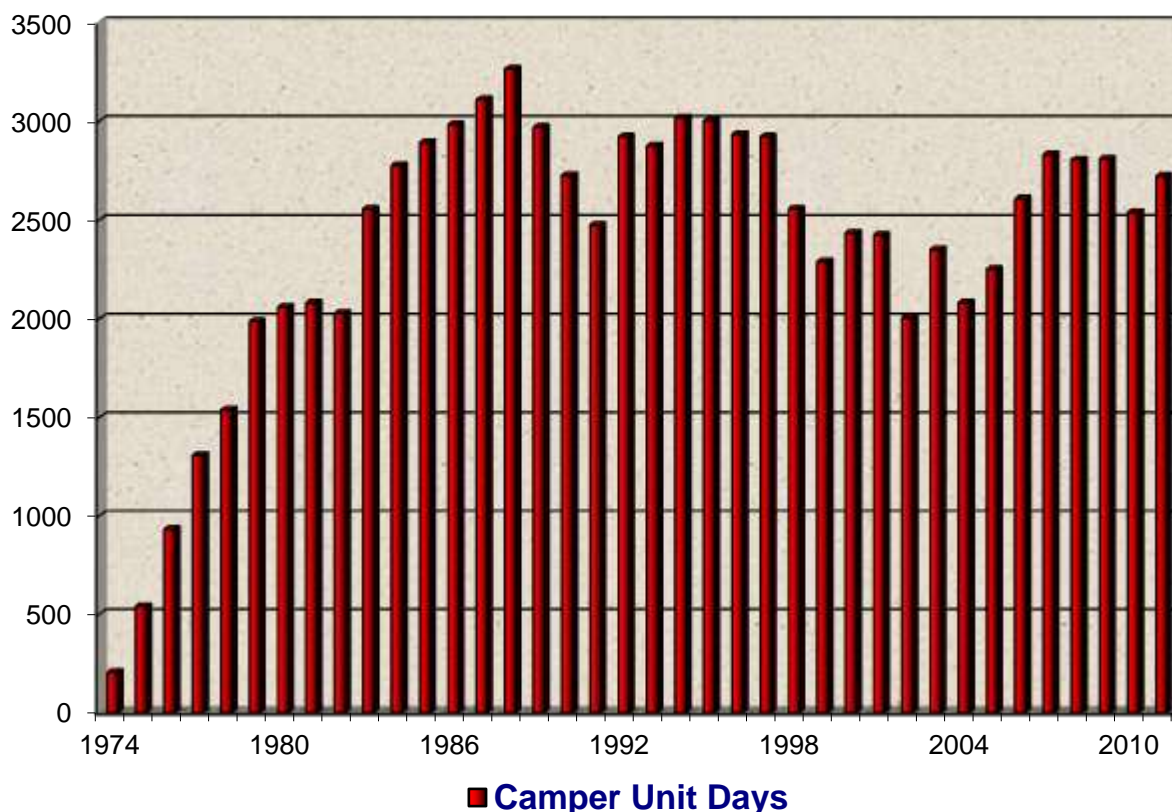
Glen Hills General Facilities Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Continue a 5-year program of replacing the outdated and worn picnic tables with low maintenance styles.	\$7,000	Park Budget or grants	Annually
Continue to construct fish cribs on Glen Lake to increase fish habitat.	\$3,000	Parks Budget	Annually
Continue to utilize and evaluate the park reservation systems used by the public.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Bluebird and wood duck houses should be constructed along the hiking trails and at the scenic overlook.	\$500	Should solicit donations from local organizations such as 4-H.	Ongoing
Actively solicit brochures for other recreational activities and tourist attractions, throughout the County to promote local tourism.	\$0	Park Budget	Ongoing
Chip seal the main day-use drive to group area.	\$10,000	Park Budget	2016
Chip-seal Picnic Point Lane including beach and day-use loop.	\$15,000	Park Budget	2017
Chip-seal road surface from main service road to boat landing loop and parking lot.	\$15,000	Park Budget	2017

Campground: The Glen Hills campground has 49 single campsites and six double sites for families or groups camping together. Most of the campsites are generously sized with mature trees and vegetation to provide privacy screening. The Parks Department tries to provide a rustic camping experience to visitors. In 2005 an electrical plan was developed to upgrade the campground electrical system. Phases I, II and III were completed in 2005. Phases IV and V were completed in 2009. The campsites are being modernized to accommodate the recreational vehicles, which have become significantly larger in the last 25 years. Also, people tend to camp in groups or have numerous visitors compared to years ago. On busy weekends the one-lane campsite loops are almost blocked by the number of vehicles.

The graphs and the table on the next three pages depict the history of total camping days since the park opened in 1974, the camper registrations from 1991 through 2011 and the breakdown of where campers are coming from.

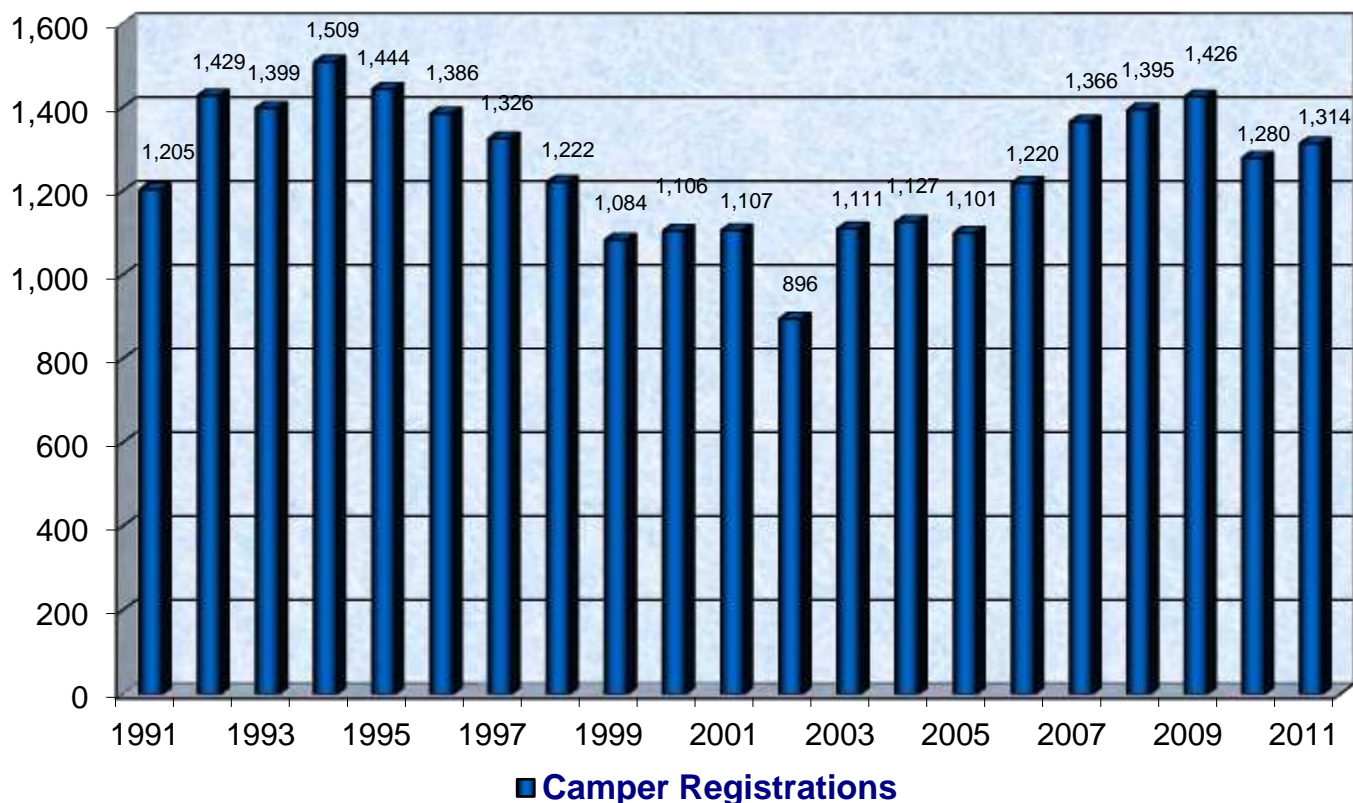
With the potential threat of the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer the Community Development Committee recommended that staff purchase firewood from a state certified vendor to be sold in the campground as the sole source of firewood for the campers.

Glen Hills County Park Total Camping Days 1974 - 2011



The above graph, Total Camping Days 1974-2011, depicts the total number of camper unit days at Glen Hills. Total camper unit days at Glen Hills has, historically been influenced by weather, especially on peak weekends. However, the data also shows that promotional activities can make a difference in **attendance**. During the 1970's and early 1980's Glen Hills was building a good reputation and a good client base. Total camper unit days steadily increased until it reached a peak of about 3,200 in 1988. Over the next few years there was a slight decline but generally the total camper unit days remained constant around 3,000 from 1987 through 1997. In 2002 attendance dropped to around 2,000, since then we are seeing a rebound in attendance over the past several years. The increase in usage may be a result of the numerous improvements made to Glen Hills Parks over the past decade. Other factors to consider are Willow River State Park has added two new campgrounds, the Eau Galle Recreational Area has also added additional campsites and Nugget Lake County Park has added camping cabins. These additional camp sites identify an increase in the supply and demand for campsites in our area.

Glen Hills County Park Camper Registrations 1991 - 2011



The graph above, Camper Registrations 1991- 2011, shows the number of campers who registered for the total camping days depicted in Graph 1. The data shows us that the number of campers choosing to stay at Glen Hills declined from **the late 1990's thru the early 2000's, then started to rebound, a similar trend to** the total camping days graph. If you divided the 2011 total camping days by the 2011 camper registrations, you would get the average number of days spent at Glen Hills by each individual group of campers. In 2011, on average, campers stayed 2.1 days at Glen Hills. Campers at Glen Hills have historically averaged between 2.0 to 2.2 days.

Generally, this data tells us that once someone arrives at Glen Hills they have a positive experience and usually choose to camp two nights. Historically, **Glen Hills Campground has been a weekend destination. The Glen Hills' location and** its resources are best suited to a weekend getaway so it is likely the park will continue to see this pattern for camping.

Glen Hills Park Camping Registrations					
Year	St. Croix County		Out of County		Total
2011	420	32%	894	68%	1,314
2010	422	33%	858	67%	1,280
2009	477	33%	949	67%	1,426
2008	451	32%	944	68%	1,395
2007	437	32%	929	68%	1,366
2006	383	31%	837	69%	1,220
2005	352	32%	749	68%	1,101
2004	361	32%	766	68%	1,127
2003	356	32%	755	68%	1,111
2002	296	33%	600	67%	896
2001	332	30%	775	70%	1,107
2000	354	32%	752	68%	1,106
1999	336	31%	748	69%	1,084
1998	390	32%	832	68%	1,222
1997	406	31%	920	69%	1,326
1996	432	31%	954	69%	1,386
1995	399	28%	1,045	72%	1,444
1994	369	25%	1,140	75%	1,509
1993	368	26%	1,031	74%	1,399
1992	363	25%	1,066	75%	1,429
1991	294	24%	911	76%	1,205
Averages	381	30%	879	70%	1,260

Source: St. Croix County Parks Department

The table above, Camping Registrations, depicts the historical breakdown between campers coming from within St. Croix County and those from out-of-county. The ratio has remained very consistent over the past 16 years. From 1996 thru 2011 St. Croix County residents have consistently averaged slightly over 30 percent of the total camper registration numbers. Camper registrations from St. Croix County have ranged from a low of 24 percent to a high of 33 percent with an average of 30 percent; out of county camper registrations have ranged from a low of 67 percent to a high of 76 percent with an average of 70 percent over that timeframe.

We can see that generally people who choose to come to Glen Hills have stayed for two days. There needs to be a strong promotional effort to inform the public about recent improvements and encourage them to visit the campgrounds. There are several promotional activities that could be very positive. Staff has developed a brochure, provides a camping coupon to all past campers as an incentive for past patronage.

Campground Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Monitor and replenish engineered wood fiber playground safety surface as needed.	\$1,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Consider feasibility of adding camping cabins	\$0	Unknown	2013-2017
Evaluate existing campsites and where appropriate make into single or double campsites.	\$3,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2015-2016
Small outdoor amphitheater near campground entrance for nature programs, etc.	\$5,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2016-2017
Chip-seal campground road surface.	\$15,000	Park Budget	2017
One set of flush toilets should be constructed in one location at the campgrounds.	\$150,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2017



Double Campsite 60-61



The playground facility at the campground is shown above.

Day Use Areas – Boat Landing: The boat landing gets steady use all year long. Recent improvements at the boat landing have made it one of the most attractive sites at the park. In 2005, the County was awarded a Sport Fish Restoration Grant to install a handicapped accessible fishing pier. The handicapped accessible fishing pier and access trail was completed in late 2006. Working with the local WI DNR Fishery staff, 93 fish cribs have been built from 2005 thru 2012 to improve the fish habitat. Other improvements include upgrading the watercraft rental fleet and a new courtesy dock. Shoreline fishing opportunities should be expanded.

Boat Landing Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Install fish cribs and/or tree drops.	\$3,000	Park Budget	Annually
Shoreline fishing stations.	\$1,000	Park Budget	2014



The photo above is the handicap accessible fishing pier at Glen Hills



This photo shows a colony of fish cribs on Glen Lake

Day Use Areas – Hiking/Cross-Country Skiing: Park visitors use the trail system regularly. Two new footbridges were constructed on the hiking trail from the campground to the day-use side during 2009 - 2010. Both new footbridges have handrails and are a substantial improvement over the old bridges. But signage improvements are needed to expand usage and make the trails easier to use. Signs are needed along each trail to indicate turns and loops. Also signs should be added that would indicate where the trail leads, how long it is, how difficult it is and what facilities are at the end. Trail system maps, with similar information, should be created and made available at the entrance station, the campground and area tourist information centers. Educational signage should also be developed and possibly a specific trail marked as a nature trail.

Hiking/Cross-Country Skiing Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Erosion control measures are needed in several places on hiking trails.	\$2,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Annually evaluate and maintain gravel, steps, ramps, etc. on hiking trails to make them more usable.	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Expand and maintain perimeter trail systems around the established native prairies.	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Provide trail maps to guide people through the interconnected trail system. Difficulty ratings should be created and signed.	\$1,500	Park Budget	2014
An interpretive nature trail should be developed.	\$5,000	Grant Funds 50%	2014-2015
The trails need new signage both educational and directional.	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014-2016



One of the new footbridges

Day Use Areas – Picnic Area and Group Area: The picnic and group areas **were recently upgraded in the early 2000's with new playgrounds**, picnic tables, grills, new roofs on the pavilions, and trash and recycling receptacles. A Frisbee golf course was installed in 2005. The remaining improvements include connections to the trail systems and improved recreation facilities.

Picnic Area Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Monitor and replenish engineered wood playground safety surface as needed.	\$1,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Remove the backstop at the softball field; add a small shelter and a trailhead for Frisbee golf. The area will be maintained and used for field sports.	\$7,500	Park Budget	2014-2015
Relocate and upgrade the existing volleyball court and horseshoe pits.	\$5,000	Park Budget	2014-2015

Group Area Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Monitor and replenish engineered wood fiber playground safety surface as needed.	\$1,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Install entrance gate.	\$4,000	Park Budget	2013
Add two new smaller picnic shelters, one in the picnic and one in the group areas.	\$50,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2015-2016



Top left, the new playground at the group area. Bottom left the group area provides overflow camping facilities for tent campers on busy weekends. Below a group enjoys the new picnic tables and grills at the picnic pavilion.



Day Use Areas – Scenic Overlook: The scenic overlook is an open grassy area, ringed by trees with a beautiful view of Glen Lake and the dam. There is also a plaque commemorating the dam inserted into a large boulder and a gravel parking lot. There is a chain-link fence surrounding $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area. It is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. There are no benches, picnic tables or grills at this site. Occasionally, there is some littering and vandalism.

The fishing below the dam is popular with local citizens. Also a park sticker is not needed to access the park at this location. Fishermen heavily use the trail from the scenic overlook to the lake. In 2004 an erosion control plan was implemented for the trail from the overlook to the lake. Steps were created to prevent future erosion.

An entrance sign was installed in 2007. The site needs directional signs on the area roads leading park users to the overlook. There is no regulatory signage at the site. Posting the regulations along with enforcement may minimize acts of vandalism.

Scenic Overlook Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Grade, surface and compact the entrance road and parking lot.	\$6,000	Park Budget	2014
Install regulatory signage indicating fires and vandalism are prohibited. Post fines and hours open.	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014-2015
Install directional signage indicating the scenic overlook and fishing access.	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014-2015
Barricade boulders should be placed on the west end of the parking lot to prevent vehicles from driving on the lawn.	\$5,000	Park Budget	2015



Day Use Areas – Swimming Beach: Since 2000, the changing facilities have been removed, the toilet buildings have been renovated and a shower tower with drinking fountain was installed next to the toilet buildings. The path from the parking lot to the beach is steep and narrow. It is about 18 inches wide and over a 12% grade. It is not handicapped accessible. In 2004 the service road to the beach was blacktopped to provide a safe, barrier-free access to the beach.

Annually, additional sand needs to be added to the beach. A cost effective way of grooming the beach should be explored. Raking equipment would be a quick, thorough, efficient and less labor-intensive way to maintain the attractiveness of the beach.

The local goose population can create unsanitary and unappealing conditions for the beach user. Goose control measures should be explored and implemented in order to maintain a healthy attractive swimming beach.

Usage of the beach declines by mid-summer due to algae growth. Staff should work with Land and Water Conservation Department staff and area landowners to promote and install Best Management Practices, reducing nonpoint pollution, specifically phosphorus loading into Beaver Creek.

Swimming Beach Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Work on upland management to reduce algae in the lake.	\$500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Sand should be added to the beach to replenish the sand blanket, annually.	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Explore and implement goose control options.	\$500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Replace swimming boundary buoys and add float rope.	\$2,500	Park Budget	2014
Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant for Beaver Creek watershed.	\$100,000	Grant Funds 50% Local Share 50%	2016-2017



The photos show typical beach use at Glen Hills



Day Use Areas – Upland Habitat Management: The four established prairie sites; approximately 52 acres; **were planted in the early 2000's**. The prairies should be burned approximately every three to five years.

The pine plantations; approximately 36 acres; were thinned in 2006 and should continue to be evaluated on a regular basis for future timber stand improvements.

Upland Habitat Management Action Plan			
<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Year</i>
Burn prairie sites on a 3 – 5 year schedule.	\$1,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Evaluate the pine plantation on a regular basis for future thinning.	\$0	N/A	N/A
Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of deer hunting in the park.	\$0	N/A	N/A

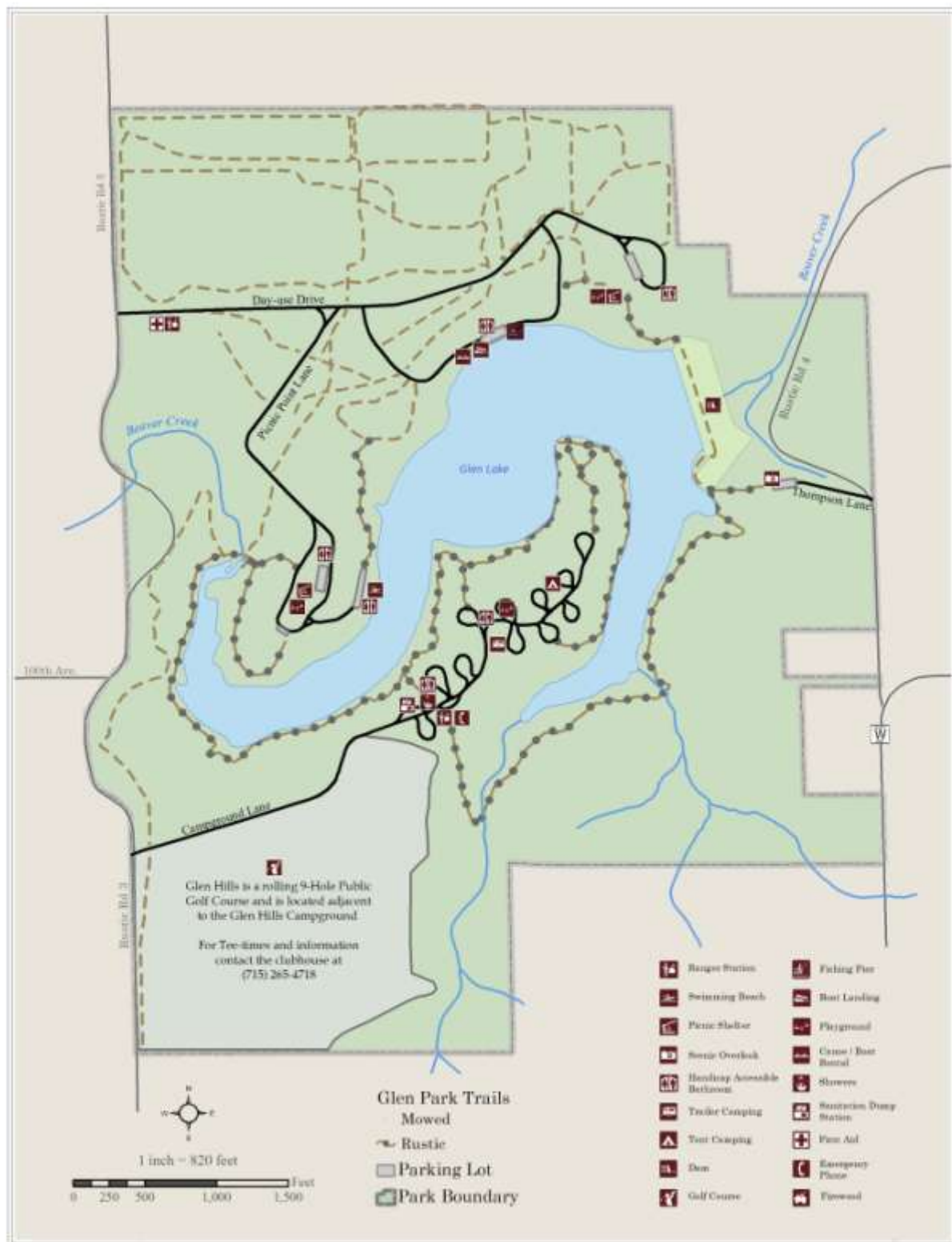


Established prairie group area



Decking area for pine thinning

GLEN HILLS COUNTY PARK SITE MAP



KINNICKINNIC FOREST LAND

History

St. Croix County owns approximately 80 acres of forestland in Kinnickinnic Township. The County has owned and managed the land since May of 1959. This site was originally obtained for youth forestry education. The Kinnickinnic Forest is managed for multiuse, including timber production, recreation and education.

Facilities

Existing facilities include a parking lot, hiking trails and signage; access is off Evergreen Drive. There is road frontage on both Evergreen and Ponderosa Drives. Area citizens presently use the site for passive recreation. The existing logging trails get consistent usage for hunting, hiking, berry picking, etc. In February 2006 the second timber harvest was completed.



New entrance sign at the parking lot

Recent Improvements

In 2006 the parking lot was renovated and the perimeter was lined with barricade boulders. Boundary markers were installed in 2007 to define the boundaries.



During 2009 - 2010, a Private Lands Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service was utilized for habitat improvements at the site; specifically establishing a prairie in a forest opening and ongoing oak savanna restoration in the south east corner of the property. Invasive species were also targeted as part of the project.



Needs Assessment

Some improvements for timber production and recreation are needed. Invasive species need to be controlled. Replanting and replenishing of tree species should be done on a periodic basis. The existing logging roads should be kept mowed to improve their use as trails. Maintenance of these trails is also necessary as fire lanes that are accessible for fire protection. Directional signage should be posted to improve awareness of and access to the site.

The gravel parking area should periodically be maintained and the existing cable gate upgraded. The site should also have the trails improved for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing because it is a large site that lends itself to that kind of use and it is convenient to students in the River Falls school system and UW-River Falls. The Kinnickinnic Forest could also be used as an

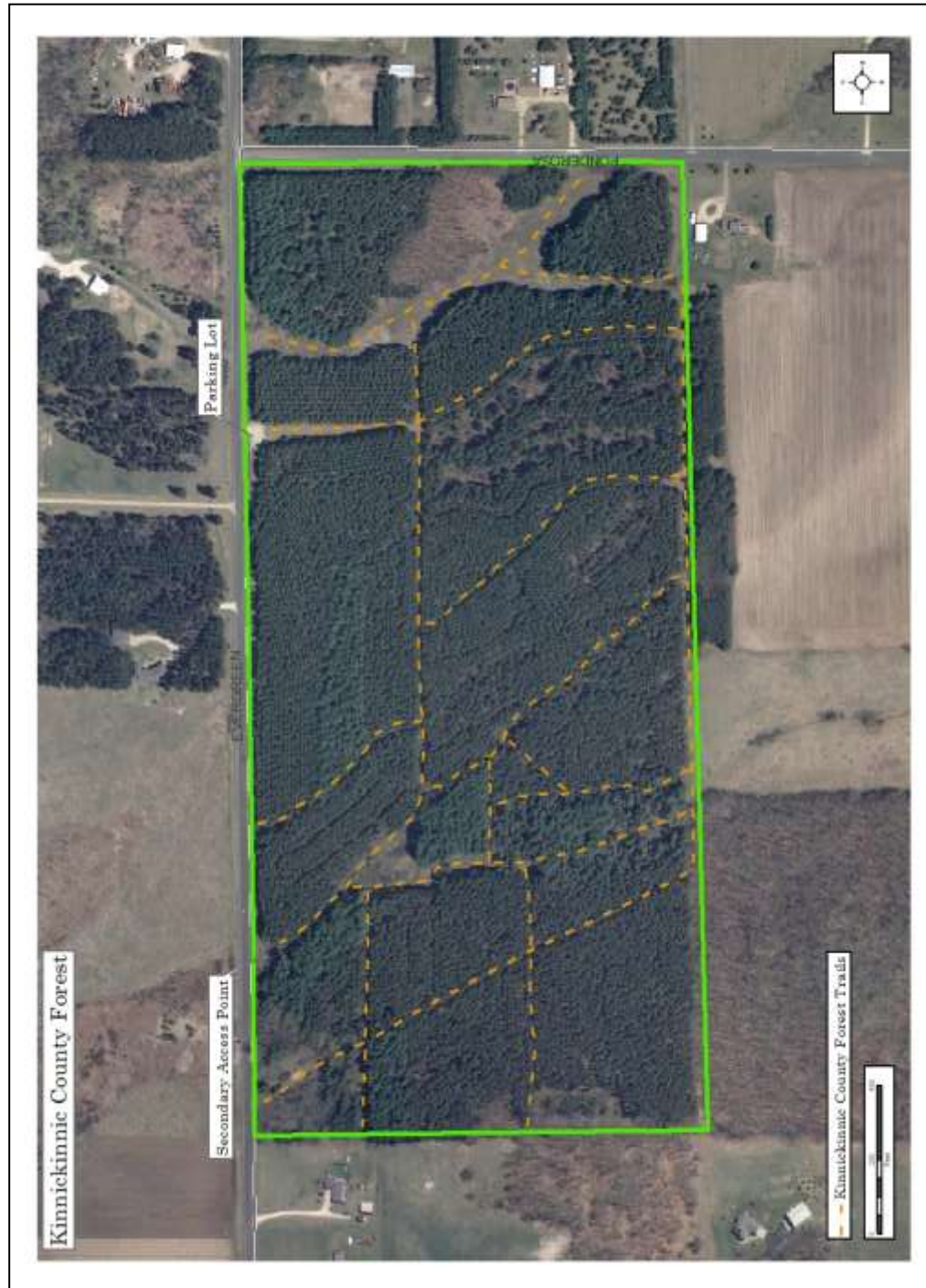


The established prairie and oak savanna restoration

outdoor classroom or demonstration area. There are several open meadows that would provide an excellent learning environment.

Kinnickinnic Forest Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Improve recreational and fire protection trails by brushing and mowing several times per year.	\$0	County Budget	Ongoing
Control invasive species.	\$4,000	County Budget	Ongoing
Kiosk.	\$0	Eagle Scout project	2013-2017
Directional signage.	\$2,250	County Budget	2014-2015
Create outdoor classrooms.	\$1,500	County Budget	2014-2015
Burn prairie site on a 3 – 5 year schedule.	\$1,000	Parks Budget	2016
Timber harvest.	\$0	Parks Revenue from sale	2017-2018

KINNICKINNIC COUNTY FOREST



PINE LAKE PARK

History

Pine Lake Park is a day-use facility located at the intersection of 120th Avenue and 205th Street in the Town of Erin Prairie. Originally a town park, the ten-acre site was donated to the St. Croix Rod and Gun Club, which then donated it to St. Croix County in the **mid 1970's**.

Pine Lake, Baldwin, had a history of severe water level fluctuations due to sinkholes in the lakebed. In 1989, the St. Croix County Parks Department, St. Croix County Alliance of **Sportsman's Clubs and the**



Department of Natural Resources worked together to repair a major sinkhole and reconstruct the boat landing.

A second problem at Pine Lake, lack of dissolved oxygen in the water led to extensive winterkill of fish species. In 1995, a cooperative effort between the Sportsmans Alliance, St. Croix County and DNR funded an aerator in the lake that stabilized the fish population and decreased winterkill in the lake. Electrical service was installed for the aerator.

Facilities

Facilities include a boat landing, picnic shelter with tables and grill, pit toilets, handicapped walkways and parking area. See Pine Lake Park Site Plan map on page 56.

Recent Improvements

In 2005 - 2006 a shoreline restoration project was undertaken as part of a Lakes Protection grant. Work included stabilizing the bank north of the existing park facilities, placing tree drops for fish habitat and building two stairways to create additional shoreline fishing access.

The County was awarded a Recreational Boating Facilities grant which provided matching funds for a total renovation of the existing boat landing during 2007 - 2008. The boat ramp was relocated to facilitate launching and features cement ramp panels and courtesy dock. The new redesigned boat landing is handicapped accessible and includes infiltration basins to minimize stormwater runoff across the pavement. An auxiliary parking lot was created which serves the boat landing and the picnic shelter area. Barricade boulders were placed around the entire perimeter to keep vehicles off the lawns and to reduce ongoing maintenance problems.

A prairie was established in 2008 -2009 to reduce mowing in the wet area underneath the overhead powerlines. The prairie further minimizes the flow of water across the gravel road and parking areas. Secondary benefits include aesthetic beauty and wildlife habitat.

Needs Assessment

Due to the Pine Lake Park's rather remote location, it is subject to sporadic patrol by the Sheriff's Department and weekly maintenance by the County Parks Department. As a result there is occasional littering and vandalism to the site. The fishing improvements have resulted in heavy usage by legitimate fishermen, which has diminished the vandalism problems.

The facilities at the site are adequate for the current users. The existing picnic shelter is small and is in need of major repairs. A new, slightly larger, shelter is needed and should be connected to the existing paved walkways.

In 1995 St. Croix County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources entered into a 20 year agreement to aerate Pine Lake. The aeration agreement benefits both parties and should be extended to protect the fishery.



Access stairs/fishing area



Auxiliary parking

Pine Lake Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Work with DNR and neighboring landowner to extend the aeration agreement.	Unknown	DNR/St. Croix County	2013-2015
Add an "L" shaped extension onto the existing dock.	\$5,000	Park Budget	2014
The existing picnic shelter should be replaced with a larger modern picnic shelter.	\$25,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2015-2016
Paint the pit toilets and aeration building.	\$2,500	Park Budget	2016
Entrance road upgrade to include sub-base and blacktopped. Auxiliary parking lot should also be blacktopped.	\$60,000	Park Budget	2017

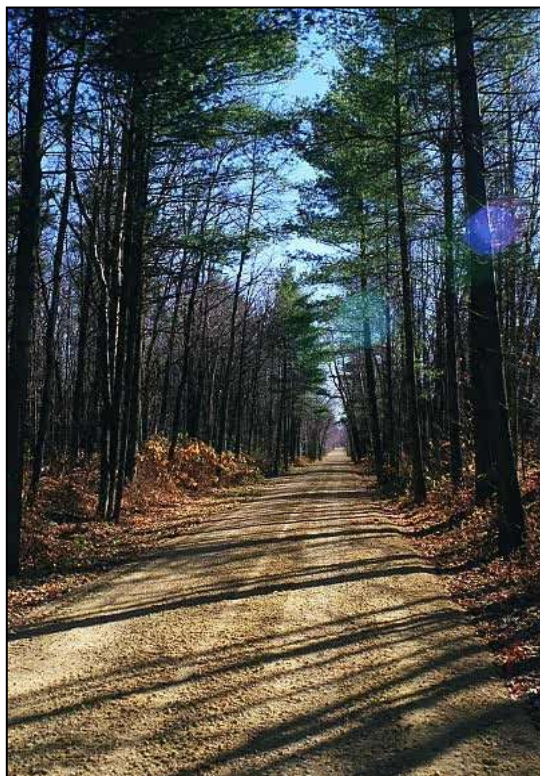
PINE LAKE PARK



WILDWOOD TRAIL

History

The Wildwood Trail is a seven-mile off-road hiking, biking and snowmobiling trail on a former railroad right-of-way. The Wildwood Trail runs from the Village of Woodville south to the St. Croix County line, through the Town of Eau Galle. St. Croix County purchased the railroad grade from the St. Paul,



Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company in 1970. It varies from 200 to 66 feet in width over the length of the trail. Please see map, page 60. Since 1971, St. Croix County has signed, groomed, fenced, trimmed trees and brush, replaced culverts, installed surfacing, expanded usage, promoted and generally maintained the Wildwood facility. It is a year round recreation trail open to the public.



Facilities

The trail is available for snowmobiling in the winter and jogging, bicycling and hiking during the spring, summer and fall. Motorized vehicle traffic, including four-wheel drive, off road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are prohibited on the trail due to liability concerns and also to prevent damage to the trail surface. Operational concerns include surfacing, vegetation encroachment, littering and vandalism. The Parks Department is on a schedule to improve the trail surface. The last four miles of the trail surface has larger size surface materials that are more difficult for hikers, joggers and bikers to travel on. Each year the Parks Department plans to improve this surface by adding 3/8-inch limestone screenings. The trail is compacted annually.

Recent Improvements

In mid-August 2010, the southeast corner of St. Croix County experienced severe flooding from a storm exceeding a 100-year storm event. There was extensive flood damage to the trail. The flood destroyed one bridge, washed out the approaches on another bridge and severely damaged the trail bed in multiple locations. Major structural repairs were completed in 2011 thru an insurance

claim settlement. Additional funding was obtained from the Wisconsin DOT and DNR to restore segments of the trail bed.

Needs Assessment

The Wildwood Trail is promoted in several St. Croix County-wide recreational brochures. However, a one-page brochure just on the trail should also be developed to expand usage. Also directional signage to the trail should be posted from the Village of Woodville and a trail entrance sign should be developed.



There are two elements needed to make the trail more user-friendly. A trailhead should be created in the Village of Woodville and the trail should be connected to the Village of Spring Valley **and the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineer's** Eau Galle Recreation Area.

There has been strong interest expressed by Spring Valley area residents and staff from the Recreation Area in making the connections. The

connections are identified in the Pierce County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Town roads, with appropriate signage, could easily connect the Wildwood Trail to the Recreation Area and Spring Valley. Staff and committee members should continue to work with Spring Valley, Pierce County and Recreation Area staff to develop these trail connections.

A trailhead would increase trail usage by providing a site for local information kiosks, historical signage, a rest area, access to drinking water and restrooms, parking, and a diagram of the trail for users. The County should work with the Village of Woodville to develop a trailhead at Steven Park in the Village. The trailhead should have an attractive, landscaped entrance sign. There should also be informational signage about the miles of trail and difficulty levels, connections to be made, and facilities along the trail. The trailhead should have parking, lighting, toilet facilities, picnic tables and water. All facilities should be handicapped accessible.



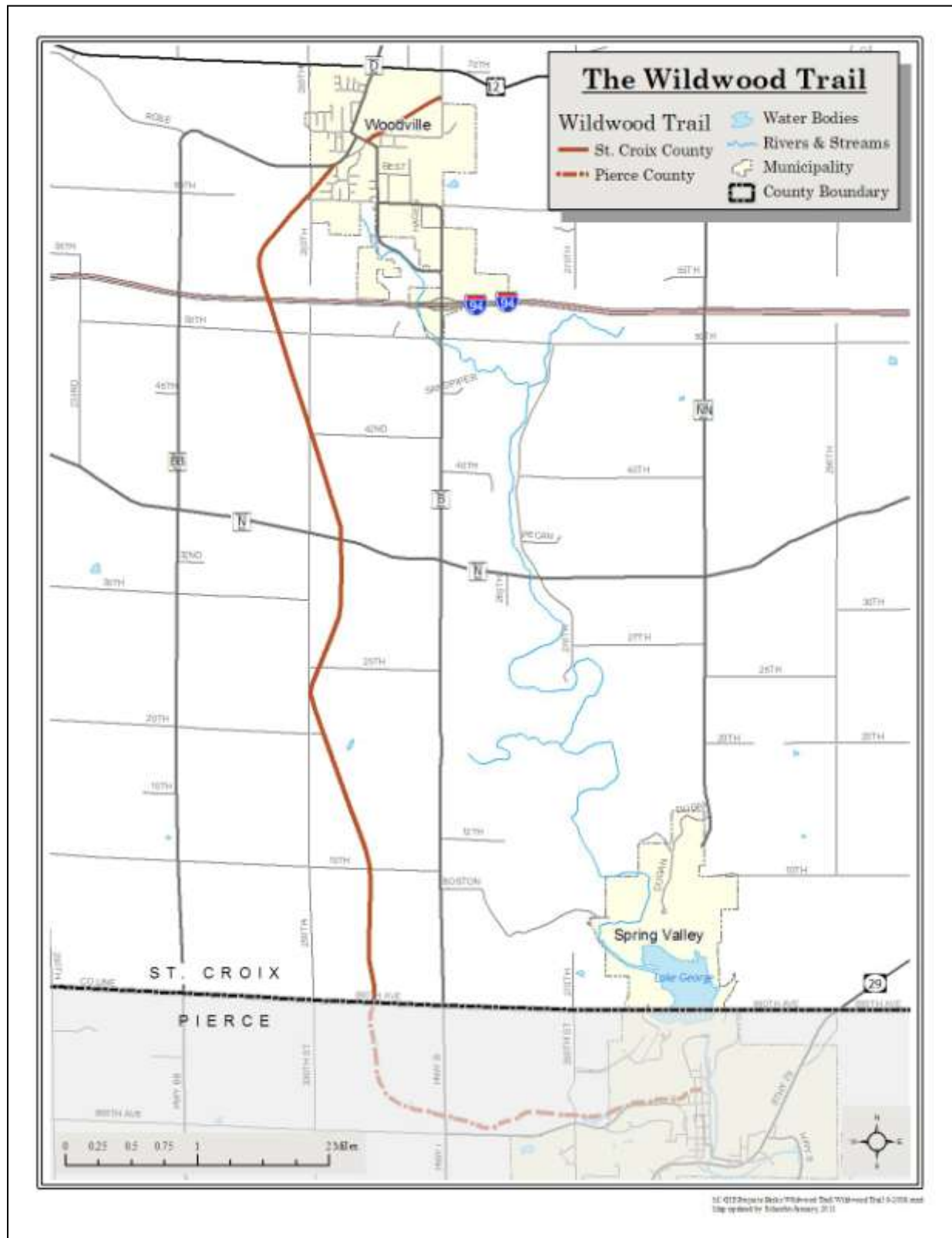


A final enhancement to the trail would be educational and historical signage along the trail itself. There are numerous educational opportunities along the trail; both the historic Wildwood and Landing sites should be signed. There may also be a site or two where a rest bench could be provided. This could be a community-sponsored project for a 4-H Club, Boy Scout Eagle candidate or other service organization.

Wildwood Trail Action Plan

<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Year</i>
Roll trail surface.	\$750	Park Budget	Annually
Grade trail.	\$2,000	Park Budget	Every 3 years or as needed
Add limestone screenings to four miles of trail surface.	\$10,000/mile	Park Budget	Ongoing
Spraying to control brush and weeds should be done regularly.	\$2,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Work with the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department to enforce the ban on unauthorized motorized vehicles on the trail.	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Work with Pierce County, Spring Valley and the Army Corp. of Engineers to expand the trail to Spring Valley and create trailheads at the Eau Galle Recreation Area and in Spring Valley.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Entrance signage should be provided to connect users to the trail from the Village of Woodville. Directional signage to the trail should be posted from Woodville, the Eau Galle Recreation Area and Spring Valley.	\$5,000	Park Budget	2014
Partner with the Village of Woodville to create trailhead development, signage and trail markings in the Village.	Unknown	Parks Budget	2014
Promotional brochures should be developed and widely distributed to promote usage of the trail.	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014-2015
Connect existing trail to the new trail section in the Village of Woodville, approximately 400 – 600 feet.	\$10,000 to \$15,000	Grant Funds and/or Village of Woodville	2014-2016
Culvert replacement along trail.	\$7,500	Park Budget	2015
One or two rest areas, with benches and nature and historical signage should be created along the trail.	\$5,000	Grant Funds 50% Park Budget 50%	2015-2016

THE WILDWOOD TRAIL



WESTERN FACILITIES ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLANS

APPLE RIVER PROPERTY

History

St. Croix County owns approximately 72 acres of land on the Apple River in the Town of Star Prairie. The Northern States Power Company donated the land to the County in 1964. The land is divided by County Road H and used for canoeing.

Facilities

The site has an entrance sign, picnic tables, hiking trails, a parking area and a canoe/kayak launch area. The site opens for hunting and fishing.

Recent Improvements

The County has owned the land for 48 years and has recently promoted it to the public. In 2010, as part of a Park Improvement Grant, a hiking trail loop was established to provide better fishing access and to present scenic views of the Apple River.

Needs Assessment



The Apple River Property is a County open space and natural recreation resource. The Committee; Parks, Land and Water Conservation and Planning departments; Sportsman's Alliance; Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust and Star Prairie Fish & Game should work together to protect the site to improve and encourage hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, etc. at the site and preserve the resource for the future.



The County owns land on the North side of County Highway H. The County Parks Department should work/cooperate with neighboring landowners and local **Sportsman's clubs to develop a** walking/hiking trail from the Apple River property to the McMurtrie property to the North, near Cedar Lake. There has been some initiative by the Nelson Family in 2009, which was mindful of this potential connection that donated a walking easement on their property prior to the sale. The Nelson property was located north of the Apple River property.



Apple River Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Explore and evaluate options to coordinate with various conservation groups for the acquisition of adjacent easements and land purchases to expand linear corridor connections thereby creating an access between properties, while buffering and protecting the resource.	Unknown	DNR Grants Park Budget	Ongoing
Property survey conducted by County Surveyor to designate property boundaries.	\$0	Park Budget	2013
Create a walking/hiking trail from the Apple River property north to the Mc Murtrie property by either acquisition or donated easement from neighboring landowners.	Unknown	DNR Grants Sportsman's Clubs Park Budget	2013-2017
Shoreline restoration project is needed to stabilize and facilitate launching canoes and kayaks.	\$1,000	Park Budget	2014
The flume site should be improved with historic and interpretive signage and bench. The flume site is located off 122 nd Street.	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014-2015



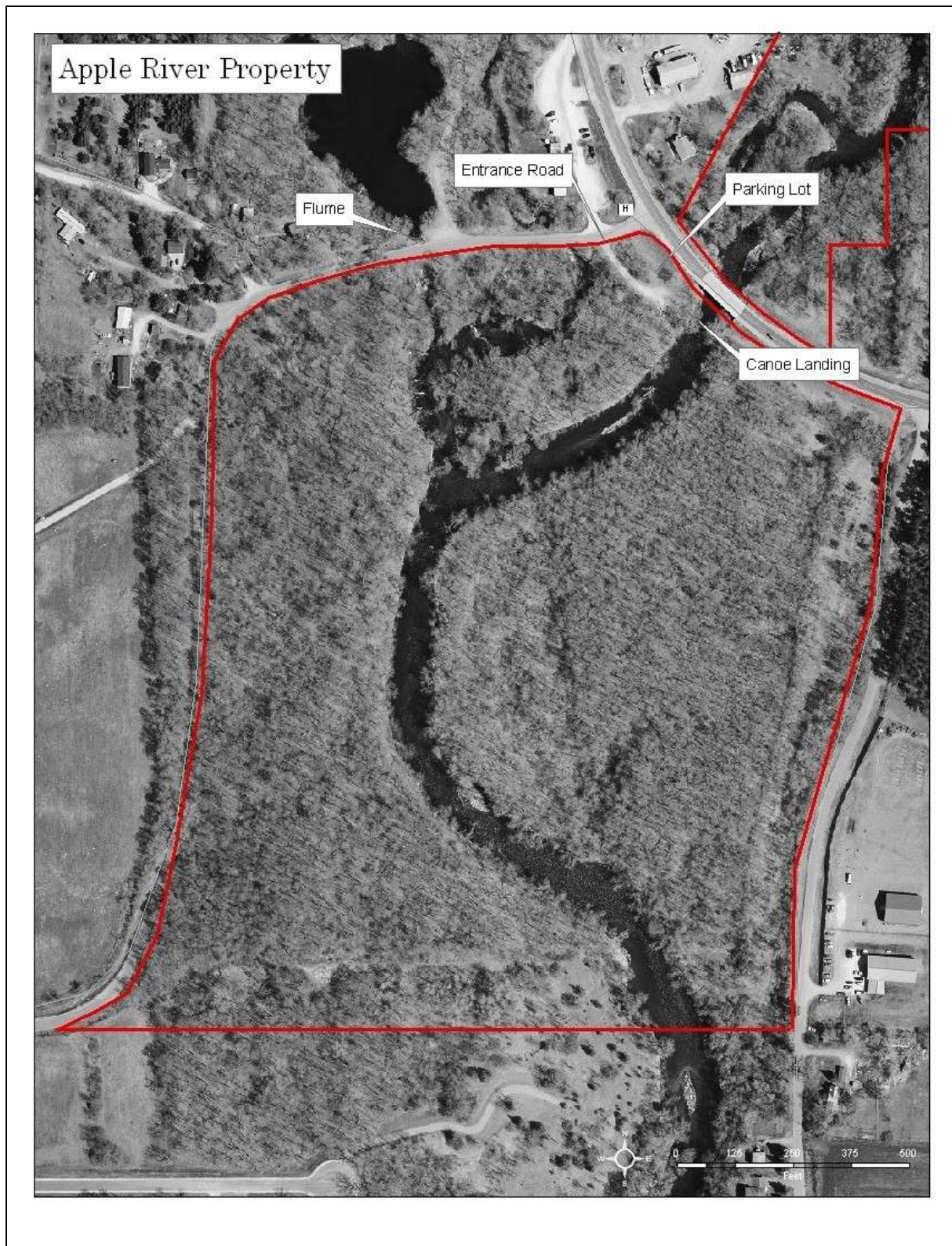
The above photo at left is one of the many beautiful, scenic views of the County's Apple River Property. The right photo shows the recently improved parking lot.



The flume site is shown at left. Above right is one of the natural trails that's been improved for fishing access, hiking, nature study, etc.



APPLE RIVER PROPERTY



BASS LAKE BOAT LANDING

History

The Department of Natural Resources owns approximately 2 acres of land on Bass Lake in the Town of Somerset. St. Croix County has a 20-year maintenance agreement for the site with the DNR.

Facilities

The site has a boat landing for two launches, two courtesy docks, signage and a parking lot with 17 stalls, including one handicapped accessible stall.

Needs Assessment

Bass Lake Boat Landing is a heavily used, very popular site for access to Bass Lake. Power loading watercraft has created a scour hole at the end of the boat ramp which has resulted in ongoing maintenance. The site should be expanded and improved as a fishing resource.



Bass Lake Boat Landing Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Continue to work with the Bass Lake Rehabilitation District with their lake management plan and fish habitat around the lake.	\$0	NA	Ongoing
Cooperatively work with DNR to repair the scour hole caused by power loading watercraft.	\$2,000	County Budget DNR	Ongoing
Fish cribs	\$3,000	County Budget	2014-2015
Review/Update maintenance agreement with DNR	\$0	NA	2018



BASS LAKE BOAT LANDING



HOMESTEAD PARKLANDS ON PERCH LAKE

History

In 1994, St. Croix County began working on the purchase and development of a new day-use county park, Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake, in the Town of St. Joseph, to serve the growing population in the county. The County purchased the largest share of the park from the Thomas Seim family in 1996.

The Seim family had owned the property for over 100 years, and had homesteaded there. The 67 acres purchased from the Seims includes the property on the northern half of the lake, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of lakeshore. **The area was farmed until the 1960's. The Seims also operated a private park and campground on the site,** and developed the beach, roads and other facilities on the property.

In 1997, the County purchased the property to the south of the Seim property, called the Onstott property, to create a total of 80 acres in the park. This property was used for grazing activities in the past.



Facilities

Perch Lake is the central feature of the park. The lake is a clear, hard water lake over 90 feet deep, and is fed by groundwater and surface runoff from its watershed. The land area includes steep slopes covered by oak woodlands and pine plantations, as well as open upland areas of restored prairie and small



wetland areas. Facilities include: a fishing pier for handicapped anglers, shoreline fishing, a swimming beach, picnic areas, canoe and boat rental facilities, scuba-diving, a playground, and trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. Education and interpretive facilities are provided at four kiosks throughout the park. The

facilities are designed to minimize any negative impact on the high quality **resources of the park, and preserve the site's natural character. See Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake Site Plan map, page 71.**

Staffing

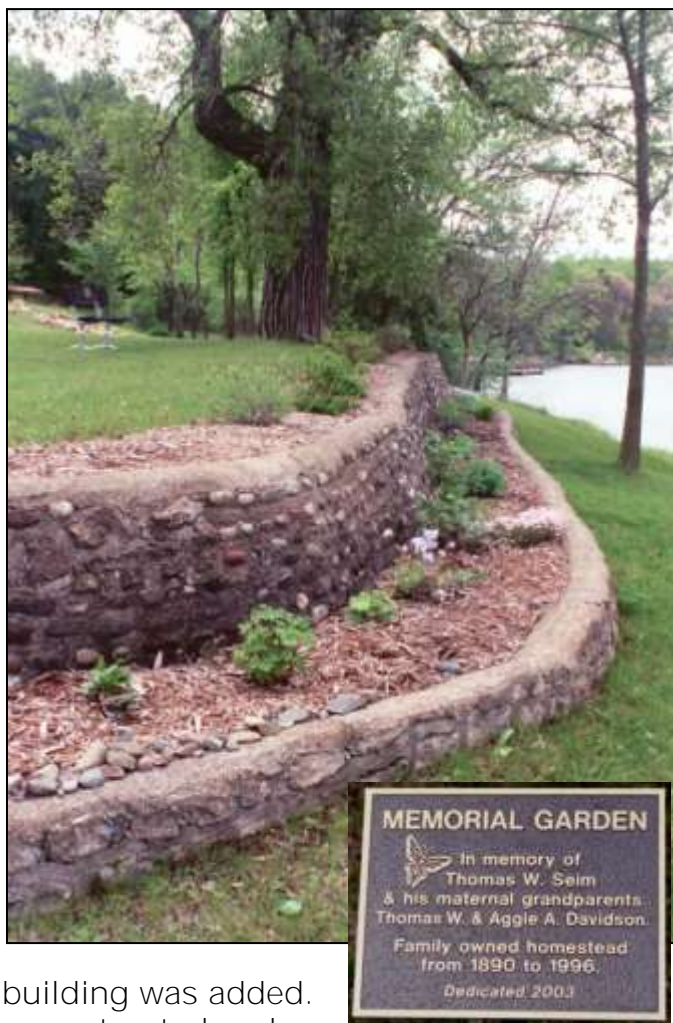
There is one full time and six seasonal staff at the park. This staff also provides coverage at Troy Beach. The park is open and staffed daily from May 1st to October 31st. There is no lifeguard. The six seasonal staff members are generally hired from May to October. They are a mixture of college or technical school **students and retirees who are trained in the operation of the park's** facilities, equipment and public contact.

Park Development

A Land Management Plan for Homestead Parklands was adopted by the County Board as part of the 2000 Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan addresses protection of the lake and land resources of the park and provides the major recreation facilities requested by St. Croix County residents and the Parks Department. Development of Homestead began in 2000. About 85 percent of the planned improvements are completed.

The Land Management Plan will continue to be incorporated as an element of this 2013 update to the Outdoor Recreation Plan and will continue to be followed as improvements are made at Homestead Parklands. In 2002 the Perch Lake Forest and Prairie Stewardship Plan was adopted to provide detailed direction on the habitat improvements.

In 2003, a Memorial Garden for the Seim family was planted and donated by the Seim family. The garden utilizes one of the last remaining retaining walls that the Seim family members constructed at the park. In 2003 a maintenance building was added. In 2005 four information kiosks were constructed and donated to the park and the design of the stairway from the observation tower/playground to the beach was completed. In 2011 the Friends of Perch Lake constructed a stairway access on the west side of the lake for shoreline fishing opportunities. Also during 2010-2011 paddle boats and kayaks were added to the rental fleet.



Needs Assessment

Continue to implement the Land Management Plan and the Perch Lake Forest and Prairie Stewardship Plan including continued habitat and oak savanna restoration, permanent toilet facilities, a stairway from the observation tower/playground to the beach, construct an observation tower and observation deck, construct a second small picnic shelter, blacktop parking lot by maintenance building, construct additional recreational facilities to enhance the park.

Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Monitor and replenish engineered wood fiber playground safety surface as needed.	\$1,500	Park Budget	Ongoing
Habitat Restoration	\$3,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Oak Savanna Restoration	\$3,000	Park Budget	Ongoing
Visitor Reception Center	Unknown	Friends of Perch Lake	Unknown
Blacktop Parking Lot by Maintenance Building, 140'x190'	\$25,000	Park Budget	2013
Chip seal road surface.	\$25,000	Park Budget	2015
Permanent Pit Vault Toilets	\$50,000	Grant 50% Park Budget 50%	2015-2016
Acquire additional property adjacent to Homestead Park for water quality improvement, wildlife habitat and land preservation.	Unknown	Stillwater Bridge Mitigation Funding/DNR/Park Budget	2015-2017



Playground and fishing access stairway





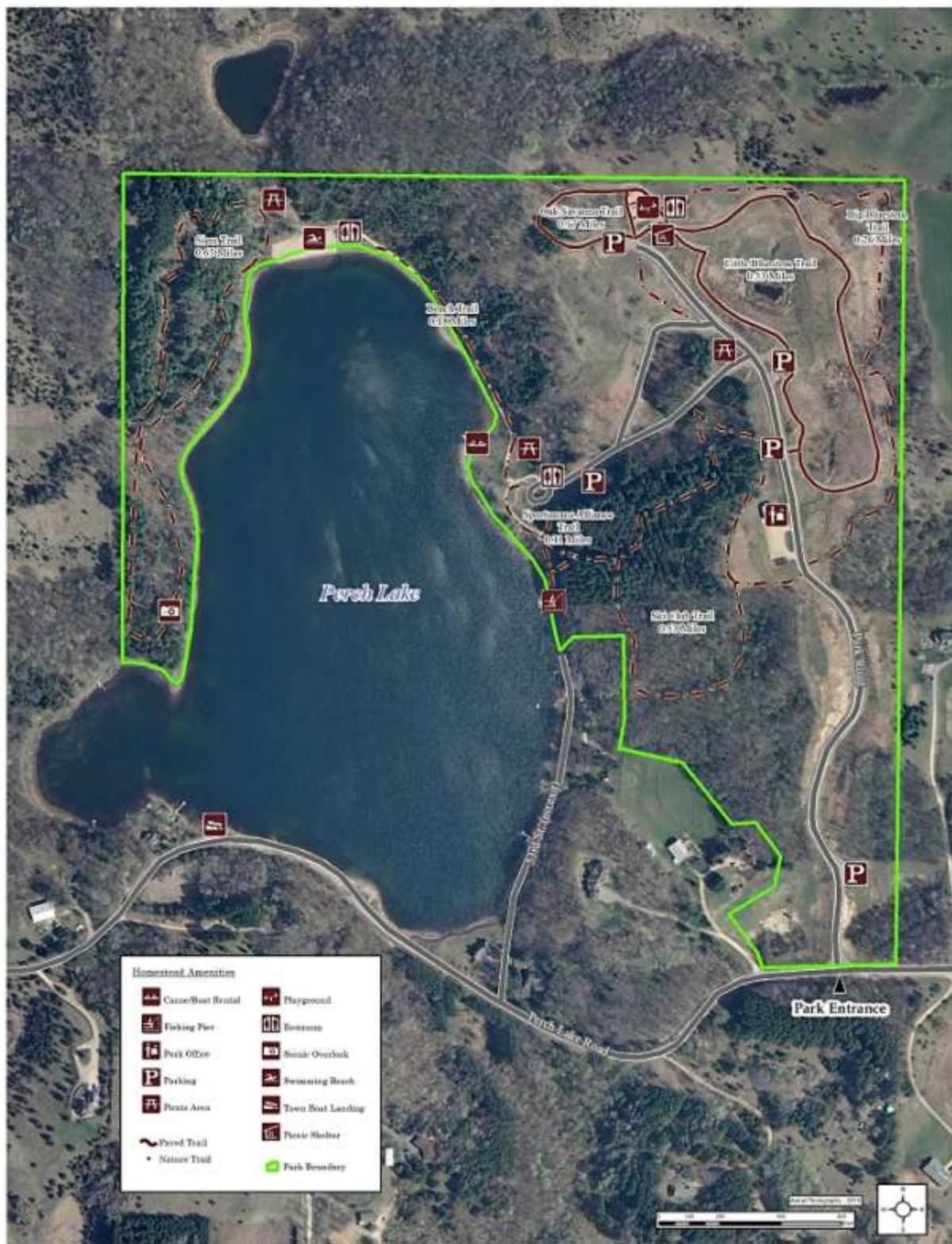
Photos: Above is a Triathlon event. To the right is the beach.



Photos: Above is an environmental education 4th grade class. To the right is a Hudson YMCA swim event.



HOMESTEAD PARKLANDS ON PERCH LAKE



STANTON FOREST LAND

History

St. Croix County owns approximately 40 acres of forestland in Stanton Township. The County has owned the land since 1944 and has managed the land for forestry since 1950. This site was originally obtained for youth forestry education. The Stanton Forest is managed for multiuse, including timber production, recreation and education.

Facilities

Existing facilities include a parking lot, hiking trails and signage with access off 185th Street. Area citizens presently use the site for passive recreation. The existing logging trails are used for hunting, hiking, berry picking, etc. In the winter of 2005/2006 the second timber harvest was cut off the site.

Recent Improvements

In 2007 with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources a parking lot was created with boulders installed as a parking barrier. A new entrance sign was installed as part of the project. Boundary markers were installed on the perimeter.

During 2009 – 2010, a Wisconsin DNR Stewardship grant was utilized for habitat improvements at the site; specifically establishing a prairie in a forest opening in the south east corner of the property. Invasive species were also targeted as part of the project.

Needs Assessment

Some improvements for timber production and recreation are needed. Invasive species need to be controlled. Replanting and replenishing of tree species should be done on a periodic basis. The existing logging trails should be kept mowed and maintained to improve their use as trails. Maintenance of these trails is also necessary for fire lanes that are accessible for fire protection. Directional signage should be posted to improve awareness of and access to the site.

Stanton Forest Action Plan			
<i>Improvements</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Year</i>
Improve recreational and fire protection trails by brushing and mowing two times per year.	\$0	County Budget	Ongoing
Provide trail connections to DNR land.	\$0	County Budget	Ongoing
Control invasive species	\$2,000	County Budget	Ongoing
Kiosk	\$0	Eagle Scout Project	2014
Directional signage	\$2,250	County Budget	2014-2015
Add picnic tables.	\$1,000	Grant Funds 50% County Budget 50%	2015-2016
Timber harvest for poles.	\$0	Revenue	2017-2018



STANTON COUNTY FOREST



TROY BEACH

History

Troy Beach is about a five-acre day-use park on the St. Croix River, a national scenic riverway. Troy Beach was originally a town park but was donated to the County in approximately 1967. It is located approximately two miles south of Hudson, off CTH F on CTH FFF in the Town of Troy.



Facilities

Facilities include a swimming beach, sandy area with picnic tables and barbecue grills, changing house, pit toilets and sand volleyball. See Troy Beach Park Site Plan map on page 78. Parking is available for approximately 25 cars. The access road is steep, approximately 12 percent grade. Annual spring flooding can occur and may impact visitation and maintenance.

Recent Improvements

In 2006 guardrail was installed along the entrance road and directional signs were installed from Hudson and River Falls. Swim lanes were added in 2009. The County and the YMCA partnered on a major erosion control project at Camp St. Croix to prevent sediment from reaching the St. Croix River. The project was completed in early 2010.

Staffing

There is one full-time and six seasonal staff, based at Homestead Parklands, who provide coverage at Troy Beach. There is no lifeguard. It is open and staffed daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day.



Needs Assessment

Troy Beach is a very popular spot in the summer months. There are a limited number of public beaches in the county and as a result they are all heavily used, especially by county residents. This park should be maintained as a quality resource for county residents. A new gate should be installed at the end of the beach entrance road.



The new entrance gate is shown above



Guardrails were installed in 2006



Swim lanes were installed in 2009

Troy Beach Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Remove sand and sediment from the parking lot.	\$0	Park Budget	Ongoing
Reshingle toilet building.	\$1,000	Park Budget	2013-2014
Install a new beach gate.	\$4,500	Park Budget	2015
Changing houses.	\$1,000	Park Budget	2015-2016
Chip seal road surface.	\$10,000	Park Budget	2016



Wedding ceremony on beach



Swimming beach activity

TROY BEACH PARK



SQUAW LAKE BOAT LANDING

History

The Town of Star Prairie owns approximately 3.5 acres of park land on the east side of Squaw Lake. St. Croix County was the sponsor of a grant to improve the boat ramp at Squaw Lake. Maintenance of the boat landing is the cooperative responsibility of the Town and County.

Facilities

The site has a boat ramp, courtesy dock, signage and parking lot. One handicapped accessible stall is provided adjacent to the boat ramp. The Town provides a satellite toilet and limited trash receptacle.

Needs Assessment

Squaw Lake is a heavily used very popular lake. The basic facilities at the site are adequate for the current users.

Squaw Lake Boat Landing Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Continue to assess the need to dredge the channel to the lake.	Unknown	DNR	
Work with the Town to improve and maintain the facility.	\$2,000	Park Budget Town Budget	Ongoing
Continue to work with the Squaw Lake Rehabilitation District on their lake management plan, water quality improvements and fish habitat.	\$0	N/A	2013-2018
New maintenance free picnic tables/benches	\$2,000	Park Budget	2014
Install directional signage from County Road H.	\$2,500	Park Budget	2014
New handicapped accessible courtesy dock.	\$12,000	Park Budget DNR Grant	2016
Chip seal entrance road and parking lot.	Unknown	Town Budget	2016



These two photos show the entrance road to the boat landing



These photos show the boat landing and channel heading out into the main lake



SQUAW LAKE BOAT LANDING



TRAIL FACILITIES ANALYSIS AND ACTION PLANS

BICYCLE SYSTEM

History

St. Croix County's rolling hillsides provide an excellent terrain for bicycle riding. The County's unusual vistas from lakes to rivers to farmland and pastureland provide scenic variety. Town and county roads provide interesting alternatives for bicyclists locally and for those staying at the city, county, state or federal camping facilities in and near the county. In 2007, the County Parks Department contracted with



the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to develop the **St. Croix County Parks and Recreation Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**. The plan, adopted in 2008, identifies recreational bicycling and walking opportunities within the county.

In 1995, the St. Croix County Highway Department contracted with the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning commission to develop the **1995-2015 St. Croix County Bicycle Transportation Plan**. This plan describes the existing bicycle route system, proposed improvements and estimated costs. The plan focuses on **on-road bicycle routes as an important component of the county's transportation system** to get people from home to work and from place to place. The County Highway Department has been utilizing this plan in their long-range improvement goals.

The 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan works in concert with the 1995 St. Croix County Bicycle Transportation Plan to provide a complete system of on and off-road biking and walking opportunities for county residents.

Facilities

St. Croix County has approximately 230 miles of county or town roads designated as bicycle routes, up from 185 miles in 2000. These routes are marked and shown on county and state maps. In a number of cases, shoulders of the road have been paved and signed for bicycle use. See chart, following page. Bicycling can also be done on most town and county roads. The bicycle route system is designed to allow access to all the communities in the county.

St. Croix County's only off-road bicycle trail is the Wildwood Trail. This is a county-owned park facility and it is extensively reviewed in the previous sections. See Bicycle Route System map, page 89.

St. Croix County Signed and Paved Shoulders		
<i>Minimum 30' Wide Pavement</i>		
CTH-A	Hudson City Limits to Business 64	13.0 miles
	STH-64 Ramp to CTH-A/W 4th Street (Old STH-64)	1.6 miles
CTH-B	CTH-N to I-94 Ramp	1.8 miles
CTH-C	90th Street to CTH-CC	2.0 miles
	CTH-CC/210th Avenue to CTH-H	1.7 miles
CTH-CC	Industrial Blvd/Wall St. to CTH-C/210th Ave	2.0 miles
	CTH-C/210th Avenue to CTH-H	2.3 miles
CTH-D	USH-12 to CTH-DD	6.4 miles
CTH-E	STH-35 to CTH-A/Bass Lake Road	8.1 miles
	CTH-T/100th Ave to USH-63	2.8 miles
	STH-128 to CTH-W	2.0 miles
CTH-F	CTH-M (South County Line) to Carmichael Rd/Coulee Trail	5.5 miles
CTH-G	CTH-A to STH-65	2.0 miles
CTH-H	CTH-CC to STH-46	4.5 miles
CTH-I	CTH-A to Somerset Village Limits	7.0 miles
CTH-J	CTH-T to Baldwin Village Limits	2.8 miles
CTH-K	Business 64 to 185th Avenue/CTH-KK	0.8 miles
CTH-M	River Falls City Limits to CTH-T	7.9 miles
CTH-MM	CTH-F to Apollo Road (River Falls)	4.9 miles
	Oak Ridge Dr. to North Main St. (River Falls) (From bridge to the East)	0.2 miles
CTH-N	CTH-U South to STH-65	3.9 miles
CTH-P	CTH-Q to Polk County Line	2.0 miles
CTH-PP	Pierce/St. Croix Road to STH-29	0.6 miles
CTH-T	CTH-N to Hammond Village Limits	2.6 miles
	STH- 64 to CTH-H	5.0 miles
CTH-TT	0.5 miles east of 130th Street to 170th Street	3.5 miles
CTH-UU	Hudson City Limits to USH-12	1.6 miles
CTH-V	STH-35 to STH-35/64	4.5 miles
CTH-VV	172nd Avenue to 50th Street	1.1 miles
TOTAL		110.3 miles

Recent Improvements

The Highway Department has been able to increase route mileage to 230 miles, which is close to the total of 242.6 miles of county and town roads identified in the Bicycle Transportation Plan. The Highway Department also works on a continuous basis to address signage on the bike route system. This includes replacing aging and damaged signs as well as the installation of additional signs as the system expands. During the process of planning for construction projects on the county trunk highway system, the question of whether or not to include paved shoulders and the width of the paved shoulder is addressed. This is one of the many factors that weigh into the analysis of total project cost versus benefit of the numerous variables that exist with this type of work.



During 2011-2012 a bike loop map was developed to promote bicycling tourism in St. Croix County. The development of the bike routes and map was a partnership by members of the New Richmond Pathway Committee; Art Doyle, **owner of Art Doyle's**-Spokes and Pedals bicycle shop; road cyclists from the New Richmond area; and Parks staff. The map printing was sponsored by Chambers of Commerce from throughout St. Croix County, and distributed in local bicycles stores. There has been a concentrated effort to distribute these maps in bicycles shops in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. The map is located on the St. Croix County website under the Parks Department webpage, www.sccwi.us/parks.

Needs Assessment

The county's system of county and town on-road routes works well for adult cyclists and semi-professional touring cyclists. Because younger children need more supervision when utilizing shared bike path facilities, parents are looking for routes where children are more isolated from vehicular traffic. They desire

either off-the road paths; wide, paved shoulders; or separate trails.

In the last two surveys of recreation facilities, there has been significant interest in off-road bicycle paths

An update to the **1995-2015 St. Croix County Bicycle Transportation Plan** is planned for 2013-2014 by the Highway Department. This would address any needed changes to on-road bike transportation routes between facilities and communities in St. Croix County over the next 20 years.

and trails for recreation and transportation.

St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail

The St. Croix River Crossing loop trail is a high priority off-road trail segment that is planned for construction as part of the St. Croix River Crossing bridge construction and mitigation efforts. The 5-mile loop trail would connect the two states and cross the scenic St. Croix River twice on both the old historic lift bridge and the new bridge. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and signed between the National Park Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin



Department of Natural Resources, Federal Highway Administration, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT). As part of the compensation to offset impacts of a new river crossing on the recreational values of the St. Croix River, MNDOT and WISDOT will complete the loop trail system connecting Minnesota and Wisconsin.

MNDOT and WISDOT will open the trail for use one year after the St. Croix River Crossing is open to traffic. The trail will be non-motored bicycle and pedestrian traffic and access will be restricted in the winter months.

On the Wisconsin side, the loop trail will separate into both pedestrian and bicyclist lanes to improve safety. WISDOT will construct the loop trail within the former State Trunk Highway (STH) 64 right-of-way up the hill from the Historic Lift Bridge. There will be rest areas and scenic overlooks on this section of the trail. At the top of the hill in Houlton the trail will continue south on the former STH 35 right-of-way as an off-road trail. The next segment will be east on the former CTH E right-of-way, which will now be a local road. This may be a shared roadway segment on paved shoulders. Past the Houlton Elementary School, the loop trail will continue south from the cul-de-sac through an underpass under the new STH 35 roadway, and continue as an off-road path on the West side of the new STH 64 roadway south to the new river crossing.

Ownership, operation and maintenance of the loop trail will be determined through discussions with appropriate federal, state and local agencies during final design. MNDOT and WISDOT anticipate transferring the ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities for the loop trail to a local unit of government in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The loop trail would be a valuable addition to the County off-road trail system and would be an important

element in **the county's appeal to new residents**. Trail systems provide significant appeal and generally increase property values.

Proposed design standards of the loop trail are 10-feet wide, paved surface with one foot gravel shoulders, 2-3 inches of asphalt surfacing over a 6-8 inches of gravel base course. The CTH E underpass will be 12 feet wide and 10 feet high to allow emergency vehicle access. Along the local roads the paved shoulders will be 5 feet wide, with one foot gravel shoulder on each side of the road. The trail on the STH 35 overpass will be 10 feet wide adjacent to the concrete barrier. The areas on either side of the off-road loop trail will be planted to an oak savannah to simulate the pre-settlement conditions in the town.

Loop Trail Connections

From the loop trail, other shared road routes or off-road trails should be considered to connect from the loop trail to Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake, Willow River State Park, the villages of North Hudson and Somerset and the City of New Richmond. As roads improvements are planned, bicycle transportation connections should be made. Options include wide, paved and signed shoulders or purchase of additional road right of way for off-road bicycle/pedestrian trails and working with state and federal agencies to locate off-road trails on public land.

Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake & Willow River State Park

St. Croix County's Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake is about 4 ½ miles from the loop trail at Houlton Elementary. Travel to the park would be a very attractive addition to bicyclists traveling the loop trail. This connection would require improvements to CTH E to create signed/paved shoulders. There would also be travel on local roads to connect to the park on Perch Lake Road. Once these improvements were made the next steps should be to improve CTH E to connect to Willow River State Park and the existing bike route between Hudson and New Richmond. The County should work with the State Park staff to identify off-road options for trail connections along CTH E, CTH I, CTH A and River Road.



Above, artist's depiction of the loop trail going up the hill from the lift bridge, and below, through the restored savannah south of the CTH E underpass and following the route of the new Hwy 64.



Village of North Hudson & City of Hudson Trail to St. Croix River Bridge, Hudson

A paved shoulder along STH 35 from the loop trail south to the Village of North Hudson has been explored by local citizens with assistance from WisDOT. Such a connection would provide another bridge/St. Croix River crossing loop to the proposed loop trail. The St. Croix River Bridge in Hudson has a bike/pedestrian lane on the north side of the bridge which connects to a trail system in the City of Hudson partially along STH 35 and also **through the city's Lake Front park which fronts Lake St. Croix on the St. Croix River. The city's trail is mostly off-road and is on a former railroad grade.** It ends at the STH 35/Lake Mallalieu bridge between Hudson and North Hudson. On the Minnesota side it connects to Hwy. 95 with paved shoulders available for bike traffic.

Village of Somerset

The county should meet with the Town and Village of Somerset to discuss options for connecting the loop trail to the village. Scenic options along the St. Croix River would include Pine Tree Lane, Twin Spring road, and Anderson Scout Camp Trail. This would also involve working with WDNR, U.S. Park Service because of the extensive state and federal lands along the St. Croix River in the Town of Somerset.

Future Off-Road Trails

Any abandoned railroad segments that still exist in private ownership are a high priority for acquisition and creation of off-road trails. A former railroad grade from Hudson to New Richmond is one possibility. Most of the railroad bed in this segment is in good condition and could be developed relatively easily;

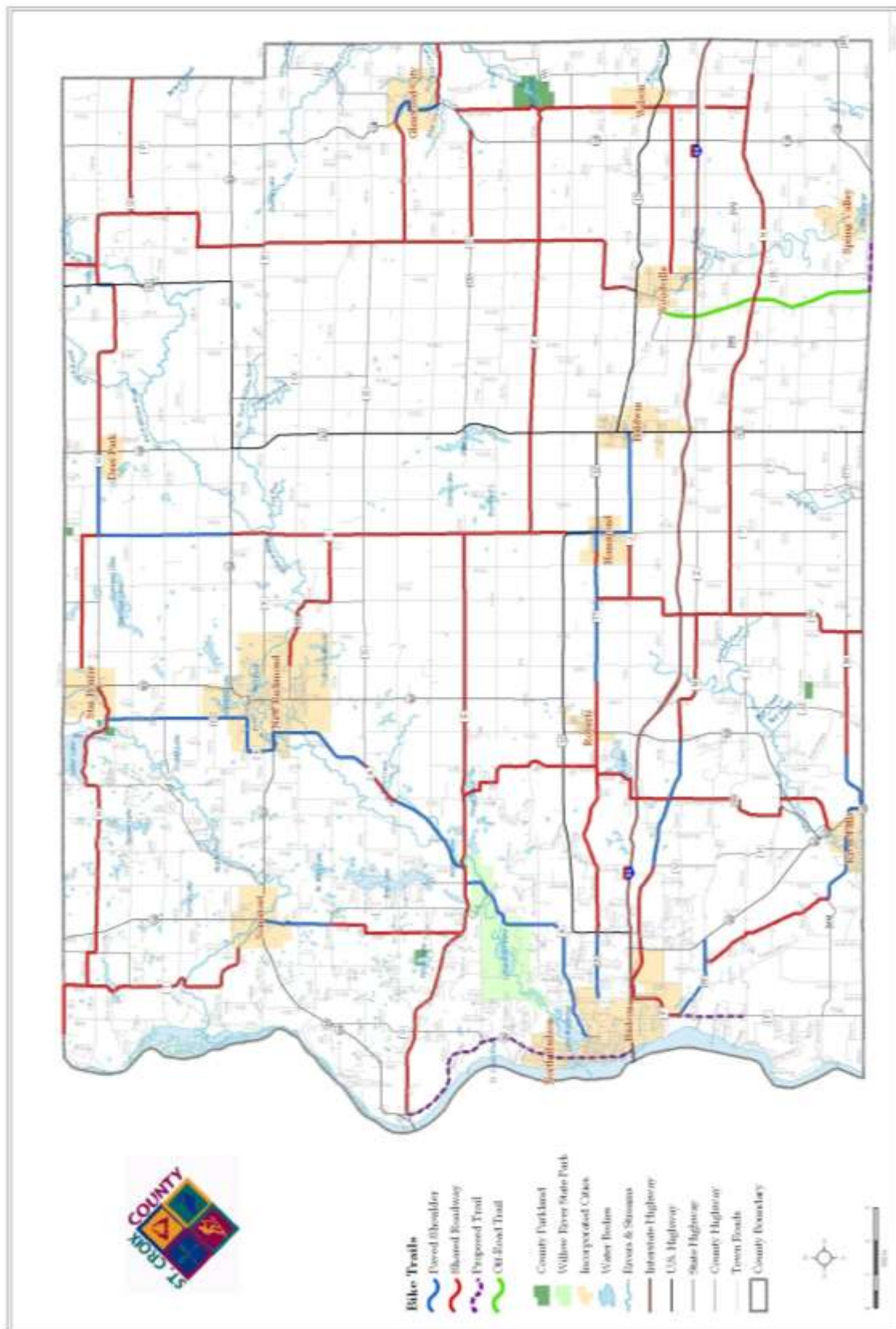
however, almost all of the railroad bed has been transferred to private ownership. It would take significant funding to acquire the railroad grade and develop it into an off-road trail. It may be possible to develop a trail in this situation in segments, such as a trail segment from Hudson to the Willow River State Park, and another segment from New Richmond south to County Road G. The middle segment of the trail would be much more challenging to fund and acquire.



Another abandon railroad segment to consider is from Hudson to River Falls. This is the former Glover Station railroad line. The majority of the land is in private ownership. Again, this would take significant funding and acquisition to develop, but it would provide a valuable connection between two of the larger municipalities within St. Croix County.

Bicycle System Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Consider merging the St. Croix County Highway Department's <i>Bicycle Transportation Plan</i> and the <i>Parks and Recreation Bicycle Plan</i> into one document.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Accept ownership of the St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail from the Historic Lift bridge to the new bridge crossing.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
As improvements are made to Highway 35, encourage WDOT to develop an off-road bicycle path from the St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail to North Hudson.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Encourage local communities to plan for bicycles in their local outdoor recreation plans and develop bicycle facilities as part of their improvement programs.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Develop better signage for all routes, paths and trails; coordinate signage for ease of use; and encourage local communities to adopt and post signage on bicycle routes and local attractions.	Unknown	County	Ongoing
Local cyclists and tourists should be provided promotional information on recommended routes to specific locations such as the state, county and federal parks, communities or tourist destinations. Brochures, websites and social media should be developed and include information on travel time, mileage, places to eat, things to see, level of difficulty, etc.	\$1,000	Park Budget & Local Communities.	2013 & Ongoing
Educational efforts should be done in coordination with local communities regarding bicycle rights and responsibilities on highways and regarding highway maintenance. Partner with local law enforcement agencies to promote safe riding etiquette. Maintenance to keep designated routes safe for bicyclists and vehicles should include removing rocks, gravel, glass, etc. from pavement edge to pavement edge. Include information on the County's website.	Variable	County Budget & Local Communities	2013 & Ongoing
Work with local municipalities, neighboring counties and special interest groups to implement the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Unknown	Unknown	2013-2017
Consider a trail connection from Hudson to River Falls on former rail road grade, (where it exists) and/or develop off-road trail segments when and where needed to make the connection.	\$500,000	DNR Park Budget	2013-2017
Consider upgrading the bicycle route on County Road E to an off-road trail/paved shoulder from the St. Croix River Crossing loop trail to Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake and eventually to the bicycle route on CTH A from Hudson to New Richmond.	\$500,000	WI DOT DNR County Budget	2013-2017
Develop an off-road trail on the former railroad bed from Hudson to Willow River State Park and eventually to New Richmond. Either acquisition and/or long term easements will be needed.	\$500,000	WI DNR & County Budget	2013-2017

BIKE ROUTE SYSTEM MAP



SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM

History

The St. Croix County Snowmobile Association is composed of 12 snowmobile clubs from around the county. County Park staff serves as Trail Coordinator for the state-funded, county trail system. The Association works through the Trail Coordinator in the maintenance and grooming of the trail. The Department of Natural Resources, using snowmobile registration fees and gas tax revenues, provides funds for trail maintenance to the association.

Facilities

There are 216.6 miles of groomed public trail. There are also a few miles of club trail that are not groomed. See the Snowmobile Trail Systems map, page 92.

Recent Improvements

In 2005 the Snowmobile Ordinance was amended to expand enforcement against riders using trails before they are opened. This will improve relations with property owners and will protect the resource for all users.

Needs Assessment

Overall the snowmobile trail system is very well run and maintained. Due to the increasing population in the western towns of Troy, Hudson and St. Joseph trail usage has been increasing. However, the growing population and new rural subdivisions decrease the open land available for snowmobile trails so new trail segments are unlikely in the western part of the county and some existing segments may be lost. The County Snowmobile Association has recommended **that sharing wintertime usage on any trails with ATV's would be very undesirable.** The following improvements were suggested by the Snowmobile Association and should be implemented with the County's assistance.



Trail grooming in eastern St. Croix County



Snowmobile Trail System Action Plan			
Improvements	Cost	Funding Source	Year
Snowmobile crossings should be included in the Hwy 64 freeway. Coordinate with the WI DOT to locate the fence to allow a trail outside the freeway on both sides.	Unknown	WI DOT & Snowmobile Aids	Ongoing
To protect trail segments, subdivision and platting review should include an evaluation of snowmobile trail routes and possible easements to keep trail routes open.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Encourage cities and villages to have designated trails through their communities so that snowmobilers can get to gas, food and lodging. Communities could designate limited routes so that resident snowmobilers can get to the County trail system.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
County, municipal and state owned lands and programs are encouraged to cooperate with the St. Croix County Snowmobile Association and local clubs in establishing trails across these public lands.	\$0	N/A	Ongoing
Consult with the Highway Department and Town officials whenever major road improvements are considered, to plan for ditch grades that are suitable for snowmobile crossings.	Unknown	Town, County and State Budgets	Ongoing
The County should purchase any available railroad grades and establish trails on them.	Unknown	County Budget	When Available
Local clubs should establish a funded trail between Woodville and Emerald. This would cut a relatively large trail loop in half.	Unknown	Snowmobile Aids 100%	2016-2018



An antique snowmobile event



Community Outdoor Recreation Plans

St. Croix County has an abundant supply of both public and private recreational opportunities available to its residents. There are federal, state, county, municipal and private recreation facilities of one kind or another to be found in every community in the county. Activities include parks, playgrounds, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas, sight-seeing, pleasure driving, cross-country skiing trails, hiking trails, horse trails, horseback riding facilities, campgrounds, swimming beaches, tubing, sand volleyball, canoeing, water skiing, boating, fishing, hunting, sno-tubing, ice skating, hockey, shooting and archery ranges, golf courses, etc.

St. Croix County recognizes that it is essential to have a wide range of recreation facilities in the county. State and federal facilities can offer different recreational opportunities to residents than can the county or the local community. Each has a role to play and a niche it is best capable of filling. The St. Croix County **Parks Department's supports the roles that public and private** facilities play in providing recreational opportunities to county residents. The department works cooperatively with Local Units of Government to promote recreational activities to citizens throughout St. Croix County.

The following section on Community Outdoor Recreation Plans includes plans that have been adopted by each Local Unit of Government (LUG) and where the LUG has requested that the local outdoor recreation plan be incorporated into **the county outdoor recreation plan. Each local community's outdoor recreation** plan identifies existing and proposed outdoor recreation opportunities and programs. These outdoor recreation plans analyze present recreation facilities and plan for future recreational needs to maintain a pleasant and satisfying environment for future generations.

Goal G. Cooperate and coordinate with cities, villages, towns, neighboring counties, special interest groups and neighboring property owners to provide recreational activities, access, education and preservation of natural, historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all citizens.

Objective 2) Incorporate city, village and town plans into the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan when requested by local communities.

The Parks Department invited local units of government, by letter, to consider adopting and supporting the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan as their **"Regional Plan" and St. Croix County would also include those Local Units** of Government recreation plans as part of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Some Local Units of Government have chosen to participate, others have not, some additional communities may participate in the future. To date supporting resolutions were received **from the following LUG's:**

- 1) Town of Somerset
- 2) Town of Warren
- 3) City of Hudson
- 4) Village of Woodville

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Home ZIP Code

Home ZIP	Frequency	Percent	City	State
54016	94	19.9%	Hudson	WI
54017	40	8.5%	New Richmond	WI
54002	35	7.4%	Baldwin	WI
54013	34	7.2%	Glenwood City	WI
54028	31	6.6%	Woodville	WI
Multiple	30	6.4%	Saint Paul	MN
54022	30	6.4%	River Falls	WI
54751	20	4.2%	Menomonie	WI
54015	14	3.0%	Hammond	WI
Multiple	13	2.8%	Minneapolis	MN
55082	8	1.7%	Stillwater	MN
54734	7	1.5%	Downing	WI
54021	6	1.3%	Prescott	WI
54023	6	1.3%	Roberts	WI
54725	6	1.3%	Boyceville	WI
54025	5	1.1%	Somerset	WI
54027	5	1.1%	Wilson	WI
54730	4	0.9%	Colfax	WI
54004	3	0.6%	Clayton	WI
54007	3	0.6%	Deer Park	WI
54720	3	0.6%	Altoona	WI
54767	3	0.6%	Spring Valley	WI
Multiple	2	0.4%	Wausau	WI
54001	2	0.4%	Amery	WI
54003	2	0.4%	Beldenville	WI
54011	2	0.4%	Ellsworth	WI
54012	2	0.4%	Emerald	WI
54020	2	0.4%	Osceola	WI
54026	2	0.4%	Star Prairie	WI
54082	2	0.4%	Houlton	WI
54701	2	0.4%	Eau Claire	WI
54736	2	0.4%	Durand	WI
54749	2	0.4%	Knapp	WI
55043	2	0.4%	Lakeland	MN
55079	2	0.4%	Stacy	MN
56071	2	0.4%	New Prague	MN
16438	1	0.2%	Union City	PA
53039	1	0.2%	Juneau	WI
54539	1	0.2%	Lake Tomahawk	WI
54703	1	0.2%	Eau Claire	WI

Home ZIP	Frequency	Percent	City	State
54724	1	0.2%	Bloomer	WI
54729	1	0.2%	Chippewa Falls	WI
54737	1	0.2%	Eau Galle	WI
54748	1	0.2%	Jim Falls	WI
54757	1	0.2%	New Auburn	WI
54758	1	0.2%	Osseo	WI
54761	1	0.2%	Plum City	WI
54772	1	0.2%	Wheeler	WI
54773	1	0.2%	Whitehall	WI
54805	1	0.2%	Almena	WI
54868	1	0.2%	Rice Lake	WI
54914	1	0.2%	Appleton	WI
55001	1	0.2%	Afton	MN
55002	1	0.2%	Almelund	MN
55006	1	0.2%	Braham	MN
55011	1	0.2%	Cedar	MN
55013	1	0.2%	Chisago City	MN
55016	1	0.2%	Cottage Grove	MN
55025	1	0.2%	Forest Lake	MN
55042	1	0.2%	Lake Elmo	MN
55066	1	0.2%	Red Wing	MN
55068	1	0.2%	Rosemount	MN
55075	1	0.2%	South Saint Paul	MN
55101	1	0.2%	Saint Paul	MN
55103	1	0.2%	Saint Paul	MN
55311	1	0.2%	Osseo	MN
55376	1	0.2%	Saint Michael	MN
55456	1	0.2%	NA	
55804	1	0.2%	Duluth	MN
55904	1	0.2%	Rochester	MN
55972	1	0.2%	Saint Charles	MN
56307	1	0.2%	Albany	MN
57110	1	0.2%	Sioux Falls	SD
57155	1	0.2%	NA	
60521	1	0.2%	Hinsdale	IL
64505	1	0.2%	Saint Joseph	MO
76049	1	0.2%	Granbury	TX
94043	1	0.2%	Mountain View	CA
96744	1	0.2%	Kaneohe	HI
97214	1	0.2%	Portland	OR
Total	472	100.0%		

Appendix B – Written Responses

Question 2. “Other” Primary activities (25 responses)Water Activities: (8 responses)

- Scuba diving (3x)
- Checking boat performance
- Fish Kayak
- Lake in general
- Taking boat out
- Water Ski

Dog/Pets (5 responses)

- Swimming with dogs (2x)
- Come to play off leash with dog
- Playing with the dog in the water and swim
- Walking the Dog

Miscellaneous: (12 responses)

- Making reservations (2x)
- 4-H Meeting and Picnic
- Doing homework
- Frisbee Golf
- Heard about it and checking it out
- Place to have lunch - from California
- Please indicate distance at hiking signs
- Reservation for campground
- Site Seeing
- Sitting/Relaxing
- St. Croix County Fair

Question 3. “Other” main reason for choosing this park today (58 responses)Setting (beauty/openness/what it has to offer): (16 responses)

- Quiet (2x)
- Beauty of Beach
- Big open private space
- Combination of activities in one location
- Golfing
- Great place, quiet
- It's not as crowded as the cities
- Less People
- Parents live close
- Peaceful, clean water, not over populated
- Peacefulness
- Playgrounds
- Pretty Landscape/water
- Room/availability
- Safe

Family/Friends: (10 responses)

- Recommended by Friend (4x)
- Family
- Family camping here
- Family reunion
- Friend had never been here
- Friends
- Showing friends

Group Activities: (6 responses)

- Group campsites (2x)
- Location of Group Sites /Multiple sites together (2x)
- Church activity
- Long time campers

Dog/Pets: (5 responses)

- Dogs allowed (3x)
- Dogs off Leash
- No cars; easy to walk dogs

Open Hours: (3 responses)

- It was open and Glen Park pool was closed
- MN parks are closed
- Only place with openings

Water Activities: (3 responses)

- Husband scuba diving
- Scuba diving
- Paddle Boat/ Semi-clean water

Miscellaneous: (15 responses)

- All of the above (3x)
- Fair (3x)
- Found it online/Internet (2x)
- Annual tradition
- Checking it out
- Haven't been here since I was a kid
- I have heard so much about it
- It is our favorite
- Regular Visitor
- Trying new parks

Question 8. Suggested improvements or additional activities (219 responses)No changes/Like it (53 responses)

- None (33)
- Everything is great
- Fine as is
- Good the way it is
- Great place, family friendly
- I believe it is perfect the way it is!

- I love it here!!
- I love the upkeep of the park, the water is pristine, just to keep it going!
- I think it is very nice!
- It's great!
- Like it the way it is
- Nice and Clean
- None other than water - yuck
- None! We love it just the way it is
- None, do good job only thing is pick up trash every time I walk trail
- None, love it!!
- None; it's great
- Nothing comes to mind we really like GHC
- Park is in great shape
- Very nice place
- We like it like it is!

Beach: (23 responses)

- Add dog swim areas (2x)
- Cleaner beach area (2x)
- Add beach near boat launch -topless!
- Air compressor for water toys
- Beach
- Clean beach water
- Clean bird poop
- Clean goose poop
- Clean the beach
- Clean up the beach
- Clean beach – are lots of animal feces
- Goose poop on beach
- Have an adult beach - No kids
- Improve beach area- clean it up
- Keeping dogs out of the beach area where kids are swimming. Otherwise Perch Lake is great!!!
- Less rocks - the kids complained about how rocky the beach are is
- Life guard
- More grooming - Beautiful beach but we don't want rocks
- More sunny spots; less shade
- Need more sunny spots
- Poop on sand

Water Activities: (22 responses)

- Better boat landing on Perch Lake
- Better fishing
- Bigger fishing dock
- Blow-up rafts available to rent
- Boat rides
- Check on the limits for bass and make the size smaller
- Floating dock to jump off - floaty rental
- Larger packing are and boat dock
- Improve boat landing - larger and two docks would be nice
- Usage of gas motors for boats (peroine?)

- More Kayaks
- More off shore fishing areas
- Move boat dock to left side of boat landing. Hard to see to back into landing
- Move kayak rental
- Need more shore fishing - not only at PL but the other lakes as well
- Need rails on dock again. Need tie grabs for boats on each side
- Should add more shore fishing areas
- Pool or running water
- Put sand along shore so could pull boat up to launch and get out of lake
- Also for boats ramp at too much angle
- Rocks too large and stupid when ice fish have to unload or minnows dump out
- Have dock on wrong side for launching

Parking: (21 responses)

- More parking (3)
- Better parking (2)
- Closer beach parking (2)
- Closer parking (more spots)
- Connect the upper parking lot by playground to the beach with a path
- Extra parking at Perch
- It seems like more parking would be nice BUT then more people might come and the beach would be full and not so peaceful. I come here because its different than other metro beaches
- Large limestone boulders along asphalt drive make maneuvering difficult. Please post west edge of launch "no parking"
- Larger parking area
- Less parking area
- Make parking area larger - more big rocks -more dock to driver's side
- More parking areas or trail from playground area to beach
- More parking closer to water at Perch
- More parking in high season
- Push rocks back to make a wider parking lot to fit trucks and trailers better
- This is a nice quiet park - no changes - maybe more parking in lower lot!
- To improve parking - make more spaces available

Bathrooms: (20 responses)

- Flush toilets (9)
- Bathrooms upgrades (3)
- Showers (2)
- Better smelling toilets
- Empty pet toilets
- Flushing toilets - sinks by bathrooms
- More bathrooms - women's
- Outdoor showers
- Pump bathrooms more often or add flush toilets - they stink

Other specific equipment and facilities (17 responses)

- Playground (2x)
- 18 holes at the golf course
- A place to wash hands, food, etc...
- Basketball hoop
- Bouncing pillow

- Concession Stand
- Concessions back at Glen hills both in campground and day use. Plus be able to bring in fire wood
- Having more than just Glen Hills and Homestead for fun family activities - picnic/swimming/fishing/playground
- If you can, [unreadable] for x-country skiing -I'd come over
- Longer dock
- Mini golf course
- More tables/benches, wider road to Troy beach
- Off leash dog area
- Swings at park
- More picnic tables
- Rentals from YMCA sail boats and other items (very close to Troy Park)

Trails: (15 responses)

- Horseback riding trails (5)
- A better hiking trail from the beach
- Cleaner trail
- Cut down trees on trail
- We love x-country skiing - more trails
- Grade trail maybe once a year advertise trail so it gets more use
- Bike trails
- Less debris on the trail
- More hiking trails
- More trails to walk dogs
- Stroller-friendly trails

Camping: (12 responses)

- A couple of full hookups
- Campground at Homestead
- City water types, water hookup to fill motor home water tanks
- Dish washing station for tent campers
- Electricity in group area
- Level and widen out gravel when revamping campsites
- Level campsite (some) have free firewood available
- Making smaller campsites such as #58. Tent sites only. Keeping larger sites for only campers
- More level sites
- Put some swings in the playground in the campground
- Swings in playground at campground
- Water hookups (or running water and toilets) - a larger sign showing the water fill station (4)

Lake Water Quality: (12 Responses)

- Weeds in water (4)
- Less algae in lake (2)
- Better beach and water quality
- Clean out algae and seaweed
- Clean up the lake
- Keep the water quality higher
- Treated lake
- Water quality

Fire Wood: (6 responses)

- Bigger bundles of fire wood
- Bigger bundles of firewood for the money or free firewood
- Bigger bundles of wood
- Free wood
- Free wood and beer
- Use of wood

Price: (4 responses)

- Cheaper daily price
- You should give senior discounts
- Lower price for day passes
- 2 for 1 special for annuals. Senior discounts (state stickers cost \$10 for seniors)

Miscellaneous: (14 responses)

- Allow alcohol
- Appreciate no smoking or alcohol. Stay open 'til 8 in - stay open later in Sept
- He would like to see it improved beyond county line
- Less kids
- Less people
- Loose dogs
- More pictures online. Pictures of the campsite
- Motor homes should not have to have a sticker if it is parked
- Move all terrain wagons
- Open to 8pm everyday
- Open to ATV Riding
- Spray ground at Glen Hills
- Stay open until sunset everyday unless the weather is bad
- Selected 4 areas because they are the point of this park

Appendix C – Quantitative Summary of Responses by Question

Date ____/____/20____ Time ____AM/PM Day of the Week M T W TH F SA SU
 13% 11% 11% 12% 22% 14% 18%

Facility: G.H.C. G.H.D.U H.P T.B P.L Wildwood Trail
 19% 21% 19% 19% 15% 7%

1a. Are you a St. Croix County resident?		Yes 61%	No 39%
b.What is the zip code of your primary residence?		See Appendix A	
2. What is your <u>primary</u> activity today? Mark (●) one only			
How satisfied are you with your experience today? Mark <u>only</u> for primary activity.			
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Fishing from boat	80%	14%	6%
Fishing from shore/pier	66%	34%	0%
Playground	100%	0%	0%
Birdwatching	0%	100%	0%
Active Sports (e.g. baseball, volleyball)	0%	0%	0%
Watercraft	100%	0%	0%
Picnicking	100%	0%	0%
Bicycling	90%	10%	0%
Swimming	89%	11%	0%
Camping	95%	5%	0%
Hiking/walking/running	86%	14%	0%
Relaxing/passive recreation	98%	2%	0%
Golf	100%	0%	0%
Other, (Specify) See Appendix B	88%	13%	0%
3. What is the <u>MAIN</u> reason you decided to choose this St. Croix County Park today? Mark (●) one only			
61%	Proximity Location	12%	Quality of the water resource (fishery, water quality, etc.)
3%	Price	10%	Facilities (parking, boat launch ramps, restrooms, campground/trail/beach
3%	Nearby amenities	12%	Other, specify: See Appendix B
4. Including yourself, how many people are in your group today?			
1	2	3	4+
14%	27%	16%	44%

5. Including today, how many times have you visited this County park this year?					
1	2-5	5-10	10-15	15+	
31%	36%	17%	5%	11%	
6. Which other St. Croix County parks have you visited or used in the past 12 months? Mark (●) all that apply					
19%	Glen Hills Campground		16%	Glen Hills Day Use	
14%	Homestead		14%	Troy Beach	
18%	Pine Lake		6%	Wildwood Trail	
2%	County Forest		8%	Apple River	
7%	Bass/Squaw Lake Boat Landing		7%	Snowmobile Trail System	
7. Which of the other St. Croix County parks are you aware of? Mark (●) all that apply					
42%	Glen Hills Campground		37%	Glen Hills Day Use	
23%	Homestead		32%	Troy Beach	
31%	Pine Lake		12%	Wildwood Trail	
6%	County Forest		38%	Apple River	
21%	Bass/Squaw Lake Boat Landing		16%	Snowmobile Trail System	
8. What improvements or added activities would you like at the St. Croix County Park system?					
See Appendix B					
9. Gender:		Male	Female		
		43%	57%		
10. Age:					
18-24	24-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
7%	20%	31%	23%	11%	8%
11. Household Income Range:					
Under \$25,000	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$199,999	\$200,000 +
9%	20%	31%	21%	17%	2%

Appendix D – Resolution



Resolution No. 1 (2013)
**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ST. CROIX COUNTY OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN – 2013 - 2017**

WHEREAS, sec. 59.69(1) and (3), Wisconsin Statutes, authorizes counties to prepare and adopt a county development plan under the county's planning and zoning authority; and

WHEREAS, the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan is an element of the County Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix County's Outdoor Recreation Plan was last updated in 2006 and is outdated; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Committee desires to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for matching grants, and has determined that an update to the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to obtain funding assistance; and

WHEREAS, St. Croix County provides outdoor recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors to promote public health and well-being of individuals and families, improve the attractiveness of the county and contribute to the social and economic health of the county and its communities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Committee and county staff have gathered input from county residents, businesses and organizations regarding county parks, trails, boat landings and other outdoor recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Committee and county staff have drafted an updated St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013 - 2017, attached; and

WHEREAS, the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan encourages the County to incorporate city, village and town outdoor recreation plans into the County Outdoor Recreation Plan thereby making the county plan a regional plan for purposes of local municipal applications for state and federal grants; and

WHEREAS, the following local Units of Government, Town of Somerset, Town of Warren, Village of Woodville and City of Hudson, have made a formal request to the County Parks Department and the Community Development Committee to have their Outdoor Recreation Plans incorporated into the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan and by resolution have incorporated the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan into their plans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the St. Croix County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013 - 2017, pursuant to Wis. Stats. Section 59.69(1) and (3).

Sponsored By: Community Development Committee on December 20, 2012**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**Legal Note: NoneFiscal Impact: None


Don Gillen, Corporation Counsel

12/17/2012



Tabetha Hansen, Director

12/18/2012



Patrick Thompson, County Administrator

12/19/2012

St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

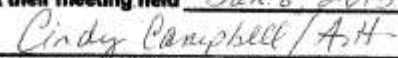
RESULT: ADOPTED [15 TO 3]**MOVER:** Agnes Ring, Supervisor**SECONDER:** Travis Schachtner, Supervisor**AYES:** Travis Schachtner, Agnes Ring, Daryl Standafer, Fred Yoerg, Buck Malick, Richard Ottino, Dave Ostness, Roger Larson, Fred Horne, Ron Kiesler, Andy Brinkman, David Peterson, Joe Hurtgen, Duane Russett, William Peavey**NAYS:** Tim Hood, Chris Kilber, Brian Hurtgen**ABSENT:** Tom Hawksford

This Resolution was ADOPTED by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors on January 8, 2013

Cindy Campbell, County Clerk

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF ST. CROIX**

I, Cindy Campbell, St. Croix
County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that
the foregoing is a true and correct copy of
Resolution #1 (2013)
adopted by the County Board of Supervisors
at their meeting held Jan. 8, 2013


Cindy Campbell, St. Croix County Clerk

